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GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES



RUMPEL-STILTS-KIN

On a sudden the door opened, and a droll-looking little man hobbled in

GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES

WITH FOUR PAGE ILLUSTRATIONS
IN COLOUR BY

CHARLES FOLKARD

ADAM AND HARRIES BLACK

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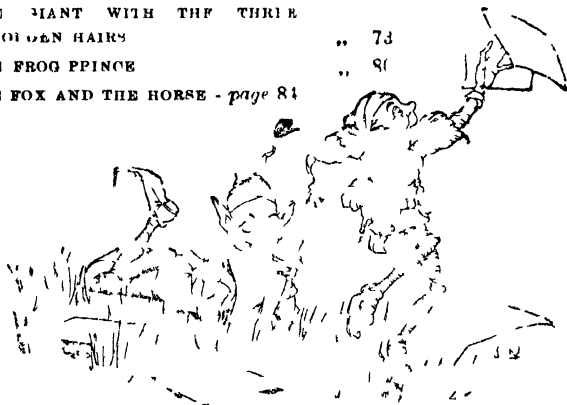
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CONTENTS

I THE GOLDEN RIED	page 1
II THE TWELVE DANCING PRIN CESSES	- page 8
III THE SLEEPING BEAUTY	13
IV TOM THUMB	- , 17
V THE GRAEFUL BEASSIS	page 24
VI JORINDA AND JOHNNEL	- - , 24
VII KING GRISLY BEARD	- - , 33
VIII SNOW DROP	- - , 38
IX THE LADY AND THE LION	46
X. THE KING OF THE GOLDEN MOUN TAIN	, 53
XI LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD	- , 59
XII THE GOLDEN GOOSE	- , 64
XIII HANSSEL AND GRETEL	- - , 68
XIV. THE GIANT WITH THE THREE GOLDEN HAIRS	.. 73
XV THE FROG PPINCE	.. 81
XVI THE FOX AND THE HORSE	- page 84



	PAGE
XVII. RUMPEL-STILTS-KIN - - - -	86
XVIII. FAITHFUL JOHN - - - -	89
XIX. THE BLUE LIGHT - - - -	98
XX. CINDERELLA - - - -	103
XXI. THE CROWS AND THE SOLDIER - - - -	111
XXII. CHERRY, OR THE FROG-BRIDE - - - -	115
XXIII. MOTHER HOLLE - - - -	121
XXIV. THE TWELVE HUNTSMEN - - - -	125
XXV. THE WATER OF LIFE - - - -	129
XXVI. THE FOUR CLEVER BROTHERS - - - -	137
XXVII. THE ELFIN GROVE - - - -	142
XXVIII. THE NOSE - - - -	149
XXIX. THE FIVE SERVANTS - - - -	156
XXX. THE ROBBER BRIDEGROOM - - - -	164
XXXI. ROLAND AND MAY-BIRD - - - -	168
XXXII. STORY OF A SON WHO SET OUT TO LEARN TO SHIVER - - - -	177
XXXIII. THE TWELVE BROTHERS - - - -	188
XXXIV. RÄPUNZEL - - - -	194
XXXV. THE BRAVE LITTLE TAILOR - - - -	199
XXXVI. THE THREE CHILDREN OF FORTUNE - - - -	209
XXXVII. THE TRAVELLING MUSICIANS - - - -	213
XXXVIII. DAME TRUDE - - - -	217
XXXIX. THE THREE MAGICAL LEAVES - - - -	218
XL. THE WHITE SNAKE - - - -	222
XLI. THE THREE LANGUAGES - - - -	227
XLII. WISE ALICE - - - -	231
XLIII. THE TABLE, THE DONKEY, AND THE CUDGEL - - - -	235
XLIV. FITCHER'S BIRD - - - -	247
XLV. THE KNAPSACK, THE HAT, AND THE HORN - - - -	252
XLVI. THE OLD GRANDFATHER AND THE GRANDCHILD - - - -	259
XLVII. THE TWO BROTHERS - - - -	260
XLVIII. BEARSKIN - - - -	286
XLIX. THE WOLF AND THE FOX - - - -	292
L. THE PINK - - - -	295
LI. THE GOLDEN CHILDREN - - - -	301
LII. THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER - - - -	307
LIII. THE WISE PEASANT GIRL - - - -	310
LIV. THE MILLER'S APPRENTICE AND THE CAT - - - -	315
LV. THE CLEVER LITTLE TAILOR - - - -	320
LVI. SNOW-WHITE AND ROSY-RED - - - -	324

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS IN COLOUR

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

"On a sudden the door opened, and a droll looking little man
hobbled in" - - - - - *frontispiece*

SNOWDROP

"The dwarfs cried out with wonder and astonishment"
facing page 40

CINDERELLA

"The sisters called her up and said, 'Now comb our hair, brush
our shoes, and tie our sashes for us'" - *facing page 104*

THE BRAVE LITTLE TAILOR

"The giant took the trunk on his shoulder, but the tailor seated
himself on a branch" - - - *facing page 200*

GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES

I

THE GOLDEN BIRD

A CERTAIN king had a beautiful garden, and in the garden stood a tree which bore golden apples. These apples were always counted, and about the time when they began to grow ripe it was found that every night one of them was gone. The king became very angry at this, and ordered the gardener to keep watch all night under the tree. The gardener set his eldest son to watch ; but about twelve o'clock he fell asleep, and in the morning another of the apples was missing. Then the second son was ordered to watch ; and at midnight he too fell asleep, and in the morning another apple was gone. Then the third son offered to keep watch ; but the gardener at first would not let him, for fear some harm should come to him : however, at last he consented, and the young man laid himself under the tree to watch. As the clock struck twelve he heard a rustling noise in the air, and a bird came flying that was of pure gold ; and as it was snapping at one of the apples with its beak, the gardener's son jumped up and shot an arrow at it. But the arrow did the bird no harm ; only it dropped a golden feather from its tail, and then flew away. The golden feather was brought to the king in the morning, and all the council was called together. Everyone agreed that it was worth

more than all the wealth of the kingdom ; but the king said, " One feather is of no use to me, I must have the whole bird."

Then the gardener's eldest son set out and thought to find the golden bird very easily ; and when he had gone but a little way, he came to a wood, and by the side of the wood he saw a fox sitting ; so he took his bow and made ready to shoot at it. Then the fox said, " Do not shoot me, for I will give you good counsel ; I know what your business is, and that you want to find the golden bird. You will reach a village in the evening ; and when you get there, you will see two inns opposite to each other, one of which is very pleasant and beautiful to look at : go not in there, but rest for the night in the other, though it may appear to you to be very poor and mean." But the son thought to himself, " What can such a beast as this know about the matter ?" So he shot his arrow at the fox ; but he missed it, and it set up its tail above its back and ran into the wood. Then he went his way, and in the evening came to the village where the two inns were ; and in one of these were people singing, and dancing, and feasting ; but the other looked very dirty and poor. " I should be very silly," said he, " if I went to that shabby house, and left this charming place ;" so he went into the smart house, and ate and drank at his ease, and forgot the bird and his country too.

Time passed on ; and as the eldest son did not come back, and no tidings were heard of him, the second son set out, and the same thing happened to him. He met the fox, who gave him the same good advice : but when he came to the two inns, his eldest brother was standing at the window where the merrymaking was, and called to him to come in ; and he could not withstand the temptation, but went in, and forgot the golden bird and his country in the same manner.

Time passed on again, and the youngest son too wished to set out into the wide world to seek for the golden bird ; but his father would not listen to it for a long while, for he was very fond of his son, and was afraid that some ill luck might happen to him also, and prevent his coming back. However, at last it was agreed he should go, for he would not rest at home ; and as he came to the wood, he met the fox, and heard the same good counsel. But he was thankful to the fox, and did not attempt his life as his brothers had done ; so the fox said, " Sit upon my tail, and you will travel faster." So he sat down, and the fox began to run, and away they went over stock and stone so quick that their hair whistled in the wind.

When they came to the village, the son followed the fox's counsel, and without looking about him went to the shabby inn and rested there all night at his ease. In the morning came the fox again and met him as he was beginning his journey, and said, " Go straight forward, till you come to a castle, before which lie a whole troop of soldiers fast asleep and snoring : take no notice of them, but go into the castle and pass on and on till you come to a room, where the golden bird sits in a wooden cage ; close by it stands a beautiful golden cage ; but do not try to take the bird out of the shabby cage and put it into the handsome one, otherwise you will repent it." Then the fox stretched out his tail again, and the young man sat himself down, and away they went over stock and stone till their hair whistled in the wind.

Before the castle gate all was as the fox had said : so the son went in and found the chamber where the golden bird hung in a wooden cage, and below stood the golden cage, and the three golden apples that had been lost were lying close by it. Then thought he to himself, " It will be a very droll thing to bring away such a fine bird in this shabby cage ;" so he opened the door and took

hold of it and put it into the golden cage. But the bird set up such a loud scream that all the soldiers awoke, and they took him prisoner and carried him before the king. The next morning the court sat to judge him ; and when all was heard, it sentenced him to die, unless he should bring the king the golden horse which could run as swiftly as the wind ; and if he did this, he was to have the golden bird given him for his own.

So he set out once more on his journey, sighing, and in great despair, when on a sudden his good friend the fox met him, and said, " You see now what has happened on account of your not listening to my counsel. I will still, however, tell you how to find the golden horse, if you will do as I bid you. You must go straight on till you come to the castle where the horse stands in his stall : by his side will lie the groom fast asleep and snoring : take away the horse quietly, but be sure to put the old leathern saddle upon him, and not the golden one that is close by it." Then the son sat down on the fox's tail, and away they went over stock and stone till their hair whistled in the wind.

All went right, and the groom lay snoring with his hand upon the golden saddle. But when the son looked at the horse, he thought it a great pity to put the leathern saddle upon it. " I will give him the good one," said he ; " I am sure he deserves it." As he took up the golden saddle the groom awoke and cried out so loud that all the guards ran in and took him prisoner, and in the morning he was again brought before the court to be judged, and was sentenced to die. But it was agreed, that, if he could bring thither the beautiful princess, he should live and have the bird and the horse given him for his own.

Then he went his way again very sorrowful ; but the old fox came and said, " Why did not you listen to me ? If you had, you would have carried away both the bird

and the horse ; yet will I once more give you counsel. Go straight on, and in the evening you will arrive at a castle. At twelve o'clock at night the princess goes to the bathing-house ; go up to her and give her a kiss, and she will let you lead her away ; but take care you do not suffer her to go and take leave of her father and mother." Then the fox stretched out his tail, and so away they went over stock and stone till their hair whistled again.

As they came to the castle, all was as the fox had said, and at twelve o'clock the young man met the princess going to the bath and gave her the kiss, and she agreed to run away with him, but begged with many tears that he would let her take leave of her father. At first he refused, but she wept still more and more, and fell at his feet, till at last he consented ; but the moment she came to her father's house, the guards awoke and he was taken prisoner again.

Then he was brought before the king, and the king said, " You shall never have my daughter unless in eight days you dig away the hill that stops the view from my window." Now this hill was so big that the whole world could not take it away ; and when he had worked for seven days, and had done very little, the fox came and said, " Lie down and go to sleep ; I will work for you." And in the morning he awoke and the hill was gone ; so he went merrily to the king, and told him that now that it was removed he must give him the princess.

Then the king was obliged to keep his word, and away went the young man and the princess ; and the fox came and said to him, " We will have all three, the princess, the horse, and the bird." " Ah !" said the young man, " that would be a great thing, but how can you contrive it ?"

" If you will only listen," said the fox, " it can soon be done. When you come to the king, and he asks for

the beautiful princess, you must say, 'Here she is!' Then he will be very joyful; and you will mount the golden horse that they are to give you, and put out your hand to take leave of them; but shake hands with the princess last. Then lift her quickly on to the horse behind you; clap your spurs to his side, and gallop away as fast as you can."

All went right: then the fox said, "When you come to the castle where the bird is, I will stay with the princess at the door, and you will ride in and speak to the king; and when he sees that it is the right horse, he will bring out the bird; but you must sit still, and say that you want to look at it, to see whether it is the true golden bird; and when you get it into your hand, ride away."

This, too, happened as the fox said; they carried off the bird, the princess mounted again, and they rode on to a great wood. Then the fox came, and said, "Pray kill me, and cut off my head and my feet." But the young man refused to do it: so the fox said, "I will at any rate give you good counsel: beware of two things; ransom no one from the gallows, and sit down by the side of no river." Then away he went. "Well" thought the young man, "it is no hard matter to keep that advice."

He rode on with the princess till at last he came to the village where he had left his two brothers. And there he heard a great noise and uproar, and when he asked what was the matter, the people said, "Two men are going to be hanged." As he came nearer, he saw that the two men were his brothers, who had turned robbers; so he said, "Cannot they in any way be saved?" But the people said "No," unless he would bestow all his money upon the rascals and buy their liberty. Then he did not stay to think about the matter, but paid what was asked, and his brothers were given up, and went on with him towards their home.

And as they came to the wood where the fox first met them, it was so cool and pleasant that the two brothers said, "Let us sit down by the side of the river, and rest awhile, to eat and drink." So he said, "Yes," and forgot the fox's counsel, and sat down on the side of the river; and while he suspected nothing, they came behind, and threw him down the bank, and took the princess, the horse, and the bird, and went home to the king their master, and said, "All this have we won by our labour." Then there was great rejoicing made; but the horse would not eat, the bird would not sing, and the princess wept.

The youngest son fell to the bottom of the river's bed: luckily it was nearly dry, but his bones were almost broken, and the bank was so steep that he could find no way to get out. Then the old fox came once more, and scolded him for not following his advice; otherwise no evil would have befallen him: "Yet," said he, "I cannot leave you here, so lay hold of my tail and hold fast." Then he pulled him out of the river, and said to him, as he got upon the bank, "Your brothers have set watch to kill you, if they find you in the kingdom." So he dressed himself as a poor man, and came secretly to the king's court, and was scarcely within the doors when the horse began to eat, and the bird to sing, and the princess left off weeping. Then he went to the king and told him all his brothers' roguery; and they were seized and punished, and he had the princess given to him again; and after the king's death he was heir to his kingdom.

A long while after, he went to walk one day in the wood, and the old fox met him, and besought him with tears in his eyes to kill him, and cut off his head and feet. And at last he did so, and in a moment the fox was changed into a man, and turned out to be the brother of the princess, who had been lost a great many, many years.

II

THE TWELVE DDANCING PRINCESSES

THERE was a king who had twelve beautiful daughters. They slept in twelve beds all in one room ; and when they went to bed, the doors were shut and locked up ; but every morning their shoes were found to be quite worn through, as if they had been danced in all night ; and yet nobody could find out how it happened, or where they had been.

Then the king made it known to all the land, that if any person could discover the secret, and find out where it was that the princesses danced in the night, he should have the one he liked best for his wife, and should be king after his death ; but whoever tried and did not succeed, after three days and nights, should be put to death.

A king's son soon came. He was well entertained, and in the evening was taken to the chamber next to the one where the princesses lay in their twelve beds. There he was to sit and watch where they went to dance ; and, in order that nothing might pass without his hearing it, the door of his chamber was left open. But the king's son soon fell asleep ; and when he awoke in the morning he found that the princesses had all been dancing, for the soles of their shoes were full of holes. The same thing happened the second and third night : so the king ordered his head to be cut off. After him came several others ; but they had all the same luck, and all lost their liver in the same manner.

Now it chanced that an old soldier, who had been wounded in battle, and could fight no longer, passed through the country where this king reigned : and as he was travelling through a wood, he met an old woman, who asked him where he was going. "I hardly know where I am going, or what I had better do," said the soldier ; "but I think I should like very well to find out where it is that the princesses dance, and then in time I might be a king." "Well," said the old dame, "that is no very hard task : only take care not to drink any of the wine which one of the princesses will bring to you in the evening ; and as soon as she leaves you pretend to be fast asleep."

Then she gave him a cloak, and said, "As soon as you put that on you will become invisible, and you will then be able to follow the princesses wherever they go." When the soldier heard all this good counsel, he determined to try his luck : so he went to the king, and said he was willing to undertake the task.

He was as well received as the others had been, and the king ordered fine royal robes to be given him ; and when the evening came he was led to the outer chamber. Just as he was going to lie down, the eldest of the princesses brought him a cup of wine ; but the soldier threw it all away secretly taking care not to drink a drop. Then he laid himself down on his bed, and in a little while began to snore very loud, as if he was fast asleep. When the twelve princesses heard this they laughed heartily ; and the eldest said, "This fellow too might have done a wiser thing than lose his life in this way !" Then they rose up and opened their drawers and boxes, and took out all their fine clothes, and dressed themselves at the glass, and skipped about as if they were eager to begin dancing. But the youngest said, "I don't know how it is, while you are so happy I feel very

uneasy ; I am sure some mischance will befall us." " You simpleton," said the eldest, " you are always afraid ; have you forgotten how many kings' sons have already watched us in vain ? And as for this soldier, even if I had not given him his sleeping draught, he would have slept soundly enough."

When they were all ready, they went and looked at the soldier ; but he snored on, and did not stir hand or foot : so they thought they were quite safe ; and the eldest went up to her own bed and clapped her hands, and the bed sunk into the floor and a trap-door flew open. The soldier saw them going down through the trap door one after another, the eldest leading the way ; and thinking he had no time to lose, he jumped up, put on the cloak which the old woman had given him, and followed them ; but in the middle of the stairs he trod on the gown of the youngest princess, and she cried out to her sisters, " All is not right ; someone took hold of my gown " " You silly creature !" said the eldest " it is nothing but a nail in the wall." Then down they all went, and at the bottom they found themselves in a most deligh'ful grove of trees ; and the leaves were all of silver and glittered and sparkled beautifully. The soldier wished to take away some token of the place ; so he broke off a little branch, and there came a loud noise from the tree. Then the youngest daughter said again, " I am sure all is not right— did not you hear that noise ? That never happened before " But the eldest said, " It is only our princes, who are shouting for joy at our approach "

Then came they to another grove of trees where all the leaves were of gold ; and afterwards to a third, where the leaves were all glittering diamonds. And the soldier broke a branch from each ; and every time there was a loud noise, which made the youngest sister tremble with fear ; but the eldest still said, It was only the princes,

who were crying for joy. So they went on till they came to a great lake ; and at the side of the lake there lay twelve little boats with twelve handsome princes in them, who seemed to be waiting there for the princesses

One of the princesses went into each boat, and the soldier stepped into the same boat with the youngest. As they were rowing over the lake, the prince who was in the boat with the youngest princess and the soldier said, " I do not know why it is, but though I am rowing with all my might we do not get on so fast as usual, and I am quite tired : the boat seems very heavy to-day." " It is only the heat of the weather " said the princess ; " I feel it very warm too."

On the other side of the lake stood a fine illuminated castle, from which came the merry music of horns and trumpets. There they all landed, and went into the castle, and each prince danced with his princess ; and the soldier, who was all the time invisible, danced with them too ; and when any of the princesses had a cup of wine set by her, he drank it all up, so that when she put the cup to her mouth it was empty. At this, too, the youngest sister was terribly frightened, but the eldest always silenced her. They danced on till three o'clock in the morning, and then all their shoes were worn out, so that they were obliged to leave off. The princes rowed them back again over the lake ; (but this time the soldier placed himself in the boat with the eldest princess.) and on the opposite shore they took leave of each other, the princesses promising to come again the next night.

When they came to the stairs, the soldier ran on before the princesses, and laid himself down ; and as the twelve sisters slowly came up very much tired, they heard him snoring in his bed ; so they said, " Now all is quite safe ;" then they undressed themselves, put away their fine clothes, pulled off their shoes, and went to bed.

In the morning the soldier said nothing about what had happened, but determined to see more of this strange adventure, and went again the second and third night ; and everything happened just as before ; the princesses danced each time till their shoes were worn to pieces, and then returned home. However, on the third night the soldier carried away one of the golden cups as a token of where he had been.

As soon as the time came when he was to declare the secret, he was taken before the king with the three branches and the golden cup ; and the twelve princesses stood listening behind the door to hear what he would say. And when the king asked him, " Where do my twelve daughters dance at night ? " he answered, " With twelve princes in a castle under ground " And then he told the king all that had happened, and showed him the three branches and the golden cup which he had brought with him. Then the king called for the princesses, and asked them whether what the soldier said was true : and when they saw that they were discovered, and that it was of no use to deny what had happened, they confessed it all. And the king asked the soldier which of them he would choose for his wife ; and he answered, " I am not very young, so I will have the eldest."—And they were married that very day, and the soldier was chosen to be the king's heir.

III

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

ONCE upon a time there lived a king and queen who had no children ; and this they lamented very much. But one day as the queen was walking by the side of the river, a little fish lifted its head out of the water, and said, " Your wish shall be fulfilled, and you shall soon have a daughter." What the little fish had foretold soon came to pass ; and the queen had a little girl that was so very beautiful that the king could not cease looking on it for joy, and determined to hold a great feast. So he invited not only his relations, friends, and neighbours, but also all the fairies, that they might be kind and good to his little daughter. Now there were thirteen fairies in his kingdom, and he had only twelve golden dishes for them to eat out of, so that he was obliged to leave one of the fairies without an invitation. The rest came, and after the feast was over they gave all their best gifts to the little princess : one gave her virtue, another beauty, another riches, and so on till she had all that was excellent in the world. When eleven had done blessing her, the thirteenth, who had not been invited, and was very angry on that account, came in, and determined to take her revenge. So she cried out, " The king's daughter shall in her fifteenth year be wounded by a spindle, and fall down dead." Then the twelfth, who had not yet given her gift, came forward and said, that the bad wish must be fulfilled, but that she could soften it, and that

the king's daughter should not die, but fall asleep for a hundred years.

But the king hoped to save his dear child from the threatened evil, and ordered that all the spindles in the kingdom should be bought up and destroyed. All the fairies' gifts were in the meantime fulfilled; for the princess was so beautiful, and well-behaved, and amiable, and wise, that everyone who knew her loved her. Now it happened that on the very day she was fifteen years old the king and queen were not at home, and she was left alone in the palace. So she roved about by herself, and looked at all the rooms and chambers, till at last she came to an old tower, to which there was a narrow staircase ending with a little door. In the door there was a golden key, and when she turned it the door sprang open, and there sat an old lady spinning away very busily. "Why, how now, good mother," said the princess, "what are you doing there?" "Spinning," said the old lady, and nodded her head. "How prettily that little thing turns round!" said the princess, and took the spindle and began to spin. But scarcely had she touched it before the prophecy was fulfilled, and she fell down lifeless on the ground.

However, she was not dead, but had only fallen into a deep sleep; and the king and the queen, who just then came home, and all their court, fell asleep too; and the horses slept in the stables and the dogs in the court, the pigeons on the housetop, and the flies on the walls. Even the fire on the hearth left off blazing, and went to sleep; and the meat that was roasting stood still; and the cook, who was at that moment pulling the kitchen-boy by the hair to give him a box on the ear for something he had done amiss, let him go, and both fell asleep; and so every thing stood still, and slept soundly.

A large hedge of thorns soon grew round the palace,

and every year it became higher and thicker, till at last the whole palace was surrounded and hid, so that not even the roof or the chimneys could be seen. But there went a report through all the land of the beautiful sleeping Rose-Bud (for so was the king's daughter called) ; so that from time to time several king's sons came, and tried to break through the thicket into the palace. This they could never do ; for the thorns and bushes laid hold of them as it were with hands, and there they stuck fast and died miserably.

After many many years there came a king's son into that land, and an old man told him the story of the thicket of thorns, and how a beautiful palace stood behind it, in which was a wondrous princess, called Rose-Bud, asleep with all her court. He told too, how he had heard from his grandfather that many many princes had come, and had tried to break through the thicket, but had stuck fast and died. Then the young prince said, " All this shall not frighten me, I will go and see Rose-Bud." The old man tried to dissuade him, but he persisted in going

Now that very day were the hundred years completed ; and as the prince came to the thicket he saw nothing but beautiful flowering shrubs, through which he passed with ease, and they closed after him as firm as ever. Then he came at last to the palace, and there in the court lay the dogs asleep, and the horses in the stables, and on the roof sat the pigeons fast asleep with their heads under their wings ; and when he came into the palace, the flies slept on the walls, and the cook in the kitchen was still holding up her hand as if she would beat the boy, and the maid sat with a black fowl in her hand ready to be plucked.

Then he went on still further, and all was so still that he could hear every breath he drew ; till at last he came

to the old tower and opened the door of the little room in which Rose-Bud was, and there she lay fast asleep, and looked so beautiful that he could not take his eyes off and he stooped down and gave her a kiss. But the moment he kissed her she opened her eyes and awoke, and smiled upon him. Then they went out together, and presently the king and queen also awoke, and all the court, and they gazed on each other with great wonder. And the horses got up and shook themselves, and the dogs jumped about and barked ; the pigeons took their heads from under their wings, and looked about and flew into the fields ; the flies on the walls buzzed away ; the fire in the kitchen blazed up and cooked the dinner, and the roast meat turned round again ; the cook gave the boy the box on his ear so that he cried out, and the maid went on plucking the fowl ! And then was the wedding of the prince and Rose-Bud celebrated, and they lived happily together all their lives long.

IV

TOM THUMB

THERE was once a poor woodman sitting by the fire in his cottage, and his wife sat by his side spinning. "How lonely it is," said he, "for you and me to sit here by ourselves without any children to play about and amuse us while other people seem so happy and merry with their children!" "What you say is very true," said the wife, sighing and turning round her wheel; "how happy should I be if I had but one child! and if it were ever so small, nay, if it were no bigger than my thumb, I should be very happy, and love it dearly." Now it came to pass that this good woman's wish was fulfilled just as she desired; for some time afterwards, she had a little boy who was quite healthy and strong, but not much bigger than my thumb. So they said, "Well, we cannot say we have not got what we wished for, and, little as he is, we will love him dearly;" and they called him 'Tom Thumb.

They gave him plenty of food, yet he never grew bigger, but remained just the same size as when he was born; still his eyes were sharp and sparkling, and he soon showed himself to be a clever little fellow, who always knew well what he was about. One day, as the woodman was getting ready to go into the wood to cut fuel, he said, "I wish I had some one to bring the cart after me, for I want to make haste." "O father!" cried Tom, "I will take care of that; the cart shall be in the wood by the time you want it." Then the woodman laughed,

and said, "How can that be? you cannot reach up to the horse's bridle." "Never mind that, father," said Tom: "if my mother will only harness the horse, I will get into his ear, and tell him which way to go." "Well," said the father, "we will try for once."

When the time came, the mother harnessed the horse to the cart, and put Tom into his ear; and as he sat there, the little man told the beast how to go, crying out, "Go on," and "Stop," as he wanted; so the horse went on just as if the woodman had driven it himself into the wood. It happened that, as the horse was going a little too fast, and Tom was calling out "Gently! gently!" two strangers came up. "What an odd thing that is!" said one, "there is a cart going along, and I hear a carter talking to the horse, but can see no one." "That is strange," said the other; "let us follow the cart and see where it goes." So they went on into the wood, till at last they came to the place where the woodman was. Then Tom Thumb, seeing his father, cried out, "See, father, here I am, with the cart, all right and safe; now take me down." So his father took hold of the horse with one hand, and with the other took his son out of the ear; then he put him down upon a straw, where he sat as merry as you please. The two strangers were all this time looking on and did not know what to say for wonder. At last one took the other aside and said, "That little urchin will make our fortune if we can get him, and carry him about from town to town as a show: we must buy him." So they went to the woodman and asked him what he would take for the little man: "He will be better off," said they, "with us than with you." "I won't sell him at all," said the father, "my own flesh and blood is dearer to me than all the silver and gold in the world." But Tom, hearing of the bargain they wanted to make, crept up his father's coat to his shoulder, and whispered in his

ear, "Take the money, father, and let them have me, I'll soon come back to you."

So the woodman at last agreed to sell Tom to the strangers for a large piece of gold. "Where do you like to sit?" said one of them. "Oh! put me on the rim of your hat, that will be a nice gallery for me; I can walk about there, and see the country as we go along." So they did as he wished, and when Tom had taken leave of his father, they took him away with them. They journeyed on till it began to be dusky, and then the little man said, "Let me get down, I'm tired." So the man took off his hat and set him down on a clod of earth in a ploughed field by the side of the road. But Tom ran about amongst the furrows, and at last slipt into an old mouse-hole. "Good night, masters," said he, "I'm off! mind and look sharp after me the next time." They ran directly to the place, and poked the ends of their sticks into the mouse-hole, but all in vain; Tom only crawled further and further in, and at last it became quite dark, so that they were obliged to go their way without their prize, as sulky as you please.

When Tom found they were gone, he came out of his hiding-place. "What dangerous walking it is," said he, "in this ploughed field! If I were to fall from one of these great clods, I should certainly break my neck." At last, by good luck he found a large empty snail-shell. "This is lucky," said he, "I can sleep here very well," and in he crept. Just as he was falling asleep he heard two men passing, and one said to the other, "How shall we manage to steal that rich parson's silver and gold?" "I'll tell you," cried Tom. "What noise was that?" said the thief, frightened, "I am sure I heard some one speak." They stood still listening, and Tom said, "Take me with you, and I'll soon show you how to get the parson's money." "But where are you?" said they.

"Look about on the ground," answered he, "and listen where the sound comes from." At last the thieves found him out, and lifted him up in their hands. "You little urchin!" said they. "what can you do for us?" "Why, I can get between the iron window-bars of the parson's house, and throw you out whatever you want." "That's a good thought," said the thieves, "come along, we shall see what you can do."

When they came to the parson's house, Tom slipped through the window-bars into the room, and then called out as loud as he could bawl, "Will you have all that is here?" At this the thieves were frightened, and said, "Softly, softly! Speak low, that you may not awaken anybody." But Tom pretended not to understand them, and bawled out again, "How much will you have? Shall I throw it all out?" Now the cook lay in the next room, and hearing a noise she raised herself in her bed and listened. Meantime the thieves were frightened, and ran off to a little distance; but at last they plucked up courage, and said, "The little urchin is only trying to make fools of us." So they came back and whispered softly to him, saying, "Now let us have no more of your jokes, but throw out some of the money." Then Tom called out as loud as he could, "Very well: hold your hands, here it comes." The cook heard this quite plain, so she sprang out of bed and ran to open the door. The thieves ran off as if a wolf was at their tails; and the maid, having groped about and found nothing, went away for a light. By the time she returned, Tom had slipped off into the barn; and when the cook had looked about and searched every hole and corner, and found nobody, she went to bed, thinking she must have been dreaming with her eyes open. The little man crawled about in the hay-loft, and at last found a glorious place to finish his night's rest in; so he laid himself down, meaning to

sleep till daylight, and then find his way home to his father and mother. But, alas ! how cruelly was he disappointed ! what crosses and sorrows happen in this world ! The cook got up early before day-break to feed the cows : she went straight to the hay-loft, and carried away a large bundle of hay with the little man in the middle of it fast asleep. He still however, slept on, and did not awake till he found himself in the mouth of the cow, who had taken him up with a mouthful of hay. " Good lack-a-day ! " said he, " how did I manage to tumble into the mill ? " But he soon found out where he really was, and was obliged to have all his wits about him in order that he might not get between the cow's teeth, and so be crushed to death. At last down he went into her stomach. " It is rather dark here, " said he ; " they forgot to bu'ld windows in this room to let the sun in : a candle would be no bad thing "

Though he made the best of his bad luck, he did not like his quarters at all ; and the worst of it was that more and more hay was always coming down, and the space in which he was became smaller and smaller. At last he cried out as loud as he could, " Don't bring me any more hay ! Don't bring me any more hay ! " The maid happened to be just then milking the cow, and hearing some one speak and seeing nobody, and yet being quite sure it was the same voice that she had heard in the night, she was so frightened that she fell off her stool and upset the milk-pail. She ran off as fast as she could to her master the parson, and said " Sir, sir, the cow is talking ! " But the parson said, " Woman, thou art surely mad ! " However, he went with her into the cow-house to see what was the matter. Scarcely had they set their foot on the threshold when Tom called out, " Don't bring me any more hay ! " Then the parson himself was frightened ; and thinking the cow was surely bewitched,

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ordered that she should be killed directly. So the cow was killed, and the stomach, in which Tom lay, was thrown out upon a dunghill.

Tom soon set himself to work to get out, which was not a very easy task ; but at last, just as he had made room to get his head out, a new misfortune befell him : a hungry wolf sprung out, and swallowed the whole stomach, with Tom in it, at a single gulp, and ran away. Tom, however, was not disheartened ; and thinking the wolf would not dislike having some chat with him as he was going along, he called out, " My good friend, I can show you a famous treat." " Where's that ?" said the wolf. " In such and such a house," said Tom, describing his father's house, " you can crawl through the drain into the kitchen, and there you will find cakes, ham, beef, and every thing your heart can desire." The wolf did not want to be asked twice ; so that very night he went to the house and crawled through the drain into the kitchen, and ate and drank there to his heart's content. As soon as he was satisfied, he wanted to get away ; but he had eaten so much that he could not get out the same way that he came in. This was just what Tom had reckoned upon ; and he now began to set up a great shout, making all the noise he could. " Will you be quiet ?" said the wolf : " you'll awaken everybody in the house." " What's that to me ?" said the little man : " you have had your frolic, now I've a mind to be merry myself ;" and he began again singing and shouting as loud as he could.

The woodman and his wife, being awakened by the noise, peeped through a crack in the door , but when they saw that the wolf was there, you may well suppose that they were terribly frightened ; and the woodman ran for his axe, and gave his wife a scythe.—" Now do you stay behind," said the woodman ; " and when I have knocked him on the head, do you rip up his belly for him with

the scythe." Tom heard all this, and said, "Father, father ! I am here, the wolf has swallowed me : " and his father said, " Heaven be praised ! we have found our dear child again " ; and he told his wife not to use the scythe, for fear she should hurt him. Then he aimed a great blow, and struck the wolf on the head, and killed him on the spot ; and when he was dead they cut open his body and set Tommy free. " Ah ! " said the father, " what fears we have had for you ! " " Yes, father, " answered he, " I have travelled all over the world, since we parted, in one way or other ; and now I am very glad to get fresh air again. " " Why, where have you been ? " said his father. " I have been in a mouse-hole, in a snail-shell, down a cow's throat, and in the wolf's belly ; and yet here I am again safe and sound. " " Well, " said they, " we will not sell you again for all the riches in the world. " So they hugged and kissed their dear little son, and gave him plenty to eat and drink, and fetched new clothes for him, for his old ones were quite spoiled on his journey.

V

THE GRATEFUL BEASTS

A CERTAIN man, who had lost almost all his money, resolved to set off with the little that was left him, and travel into the wide world. Then the first place he came to was a village, where the young people were running about crying and shouting. "What is the matter?" asked he. "See here," answered they, "we have got a mouse that we can make dance to please us. Do look at him: what a droll sight it is! how he jumps about!" But the man pitied the poor little thing, and said, "Let the mouse go, and I will give you money." So he gave them some, and took the mouse and let him run; and he soon jumped into a hole that was close by, and was out of their reach.

Then he travelled on and came to another village, and there the children had got an ass that they made stand on its hind legs and tumble, at which they laughed and shouted, and gave the poor beast no rest. So the good man gave them also some money to let the poor ass alone.

At the next village he came to, the young people had got a bear that had been taught to dance, and they were plaguing the poor thing sadly. Then he gave them too some money to let the beast go, and the bear was very glad to get on his four feet, and seemed quite happy.

But the man had now given away all the money he had in the world, and had not a shilling in his pocket. Then said he to himself, "The king has heaps of gold

in his treasury that he never uses ; I cannot die of hunger. I hope I shall be forgiven if I borrow a little, and when I get rich again I will repay it all."

Then he managed to get into the treasury, and took a very little money ; but as he came out the king's guards saw him, so they said he was a thief, and took him to the judge, and he was sentenced to be thrown into the water in a box. The lid of the box was full of holes to let in air, and a jug of water and a loaf of bread were given him.

Whilst he was swimming along in the water very sorrowfully, he heard something nibbling and biting at the lock ; and all of a sudden it fell off, the lid flew open, and there stood his old friend the little mouse, who had done him this service. And then came the ass and the bear, and pulled the box ashore ; and all helped him, because he had been kind to them.

But now they did not know what to do next and began to consult together ; when on a sudden a wave threw on the shore a beautiful white stone that looked like an egg. Then the bear said "That's a lucky thing : this is the wonderful stone, and whoever has it may have everything else that he wishes." So the man went and picked up the stone, and wished for a palace and a garden, and a stud of horses ; and his wish was fulfilled as soon as he had made it. And there he lived in his castle and garden, with fine stables and horses ; and all was so grand and beautiful, that he never could wonder and gaze at it enough.

After some time, some merchants passed by that way. "See," said they, "what a princely palace ! The last time we were here, it was nothing but a desert waste." They were very curious to know how all this had happened ; so they went in and asked the master of the palace how it had been so quickly raised. "I have done

nothing myself," answered he, "it is the wonderful stone that did all." "What a strange stone that must be!" said they: then he invited them in and showed it to them. They asked him whether he would sell it, and offered him all their goods for it; and the goods seemed so fine and costly, that he quite forgot that the stone would bring him in a moment a thousand better and richer things, and he agreed to make the bargain.

Scarcely was the stone, however, out of his hands before all his riches were gone, and he found himself sitting in his box in the water, with his jug of water and loaf of bread by his side. The grateful beasts, the mouse, the ass, and the bear, came directly to help him; but the mouse found she could not nibble off the lock this time, for it was a great deal stronger than before. Then the bear said, "We must find the wonderful stone again, or all our endeavours will be fruitless."

The merchants, meantime, had taken up their abode in the palace: so away went the three friends, and when they came near, the bear said, "Mouse, go in and look through the keyhole and see where the stone is kept: you are small, nobody will see you." The mouse did as she was told, but soon came back and said, "Bad news! I have looked in, and the stone hangs under the looking-glass by a red silk string, and on each side of it sits a great cat with fiery eyes to watch it."

Then the others took council together and said, "Go back again, and wait till the master of the palace is in bed asleep, then nip his nose and pull his hair." Away went the mouse, and did as they directed her; and the master jumped up very angry, and rubbed his nose, and cried, "Those rascally cats are good for nothing at all; they let the mice eat my very nose and pull the hair off my head." Then he hunted them out of the room; and so the mouse had the best of the game.

Next night as soon as the master was asleep, the mouse crept in again, and nibbled at the red silken string to which the stone hung, till down it dropped, and she rolled it along to the door, but when it got there, the poor little mouse was quite tired; so she said to the ass, "Put in your foot, and lift it over the threshold." This was soon done: and they took up the stone, and set off for the water-side. Then the ass said, "How shall we reach the box?" But the bear answered, "That is easily managed; I can swim very well, and do you, donkey, put your fore feet over my shoulders;—mind and hold fast, and take the stone in your mouth: as for you, mouse, you can sit in my ear."

It was all settled thus, and away they swam. After a time, the bear began to brag and boast: "We are brave fellows, are not we, ass?" said he; "what do you think?" But the ass held his tongue, and said not a word. "Why don't you answer me?" said the bear, "you must be an ill-mannered brute not to speak when you're spoken to." When the ass heard this, he could hold no longer; so he opened his mouth, and dropped the wonderful stone. "I could not speak," said he, "did not you know I had the stone in my mouth? now 'tis lost, and that's your fault." "Do but hold your tongue and be quiet," said the bear; "and let us think what's to be done."

Then a council was held and at last they called together all the frogs, their wives and families, relations and friends, and said: "A great enemy is coming to eat you all up; but never mind, bring us up plenty of stones, and we'll build a strong wall to guard you." The frogs, hearing this, were dreadfully frightened, and set to work, bringing up all the stones they could find. At last came a large fat frog pulling along the wonderful stone by the silken string: and when the bear saw it, he jumped for

joy, and said, "Now we have found what we wanted." So he released the old frog from his load, and told him to tell his friends they might go about their business as soon as they pleased.

Then the three friends swam off again for the box ; and the lid flew open, and they found that they were but just in time, for the bread was all eaten, and the jug almost empty. But as soon as the good man had the stone in his hand, he wished himself safe and sound in his palace again ; and in a moment there he was, with his garden and his stables and his horses ; and his three faithful friends dwelt with him, and they all spent their time happily and merrily as long as they lived

JORINDA AND JORINDEL.

THERE was once an old castle that stood in the middle of a large thick wood and in the castle lived an old fairy. All the day long she flew about in the form of an owl, or crept about the country like a cat ; but at night she always became an old woman again. When any youth came within a hundred paces of her castle, he became quite fixed and could not move a step till she came and set him free ; but when any pretty maiden came within that distance, she was changed into a bird ; and the fairy put her into a cage and hung her up in a chamber in the castle. There were seven hundred of these cages hanging in the castle and all with beautiful birds in them.

Now there was once a maiden whose name was Jorinda : she was prettier than all the pretty girls that ever were seen ; and a shepherd whose name was Jorindel was very fond of her and they were soon to be married. One day they went to walk in the wood, that they might be alone : and Jorindel said, " We must take care that we don't go too near to the castle " It was a beautiful evening , the last rays of the setting sun shone bright through the long stems of the trees upon the green underwood beneath, and the turtle doves sang plaintively from the tall birches

Jorinda sat down to gaze upon the sun ; Jorindel sat

by her side ; and both felt sad, they knew not why ; but it seemed as if they were to be parted from one another for ever. They had wandered a long way ; and when they looked to see which way they should go home, they found themselves at a loss to know what path to take.

The sun was setting fast, and already half of his circle had disappeared behind the hill : Jorindel on a sudden looked behind him, and as he saw through the bushes that they had, without knowing it, sat down close under the old walls of the castle, he shrank for fear, turned pale, and trembled. Jorinda was singing,

“ The ring-dove sang from the willow spray,
Well-a-day ! well-a day !
He mourn'd for the fate
Of his lovely mate,
Well-a day ! ”

The song ceased suddenly. Jorindel turned to see the reason, and beheld his Jorinda changed into a nightingale ; so that her song ended with a mournful *jug, jug*. An owl with fiery eyes flew three times round them, and three times screamed *Tu whu ! Tu whu ! Tu whu !* Jorindel could not move : he stood fixed as a stone, and could neither weep, nor speak, nor stir hand or foot. And now the sun went quite down ; the gloomy night came, and the owl flew into a bush ; and a moment after the old fairy came forth pale and meagre, with staring eyes and a nose and chin that almost met one another.

She mumbled something to herself, seized the nightingale, and went away with it in her hand. Poor Jorindel saw the nightingale was gone,—but what could he do ? he could not speak, he could not move from the spot where he stood. At last the fairy came back, and sang with a hoarse voice,

“Till the prisoner’s fast,
And her doom is cast,
There stay ! Oh, stay !
When the charm is around her,
And the spell has bound her,
Hie away ! away !”

On a sudden Jorindel found himself free. Then he fell on his knees before the fairy, and prayed her to give him back his dear Jorinda ; but she said he should never see her again, and went her way.

He prayed, he wept, he sorrowed, but all in vain “Alas !” he said, “ what will become of me ?”

He could not return to his own home, so he went to a strange village, and employed himself in keeping sheep. Many a time did he walk round and round as near to the hated castle as he dared go. At last he dreamt one night that he found a beautiful purple flower, and in the middle of it lay a costly pearl ; and he dreamt that he plucked the flower, and went with it in his hand into the castle, and that every thing he touched with it was disenchanted, and that there he found his dear Jorinda again.

In the morning when he awoke, he began to search over hill and dale for this pretty flower , and eight long days he sought for it in vain : but on the ninth day, early in the morning, he found the beautiful purple flower ; and in the middle of it was a large dew-drop as big as a costly pearl.

Then he plucked the flower, and set out and travelled day and night till he came again to the castle. He walked nearer than a hundred paces to it, and yet he did not become fixed as before, but found that he could go close up to the door.

Jorindel was very glad to see this : he touched the door with the flower, and it sprang open, so that he went in through the court, and listened when he heard so

many birds singing. At last he came to the chamber where the fairy sat, with the seven hundred birds singing in the seven hundred cages. And when she saw Jorindel she was very angry, and screamed with rage ; but she could not come within two yards of him ; for the flower he held in his hand protected him. He looked around at the birds, but alas ! there were many, many nightingales, and how then should he find his Jorinda ? While he was thinking what to do, he observed that the fairy had taken down one of the cages, and was making her escape through the door. He ran or flew to her, touched the cage with the flower,—and his Jorinda stood before him. She threw her arms around his neck and looked as beautiful as ever, as beautiful as when they walked together in the wood.

Then he touched all the other birds with the flower, so that they resumed their old forms ; and took his dear Jorinda home, where they lived happily together many years.

VII

KING GRISLY-BEARD

A GREAT king had a daughter who was very beautiful, but so proud and haughty and conceited, that none of the princes who came to ask her in marriage were good enough for her, and she only made sport of them.

Once upon a time the king held a great feast, and invited all her suitors ; and they sat in a row according to their rank, kings and princes and dukes and earls. Then the princess came in and passed by them all, but she had something spiteful to say to every one. The first was too fat : " He's as round as a tub," said she. The next was too tall : " What a maypole !" said she. The next was too short : " What a dumpling !" said she. The fourth was too pale and she called him Wallface. The fifth was too red, so she called him Ruckscumb. The sixth was not straight enough, so she said he was like a green stick that had been laid to dry over a baker's oven. And thus she had some joke to crack upon every one ; but she laughed more than all at a good king who was there. " Look at him," said she, " his beard is like an old mop, he shall be called Grisly-beard." So the king got the nickname of Grisly-beard.

But the old king was very angry when he saw how his daughter behaved, and how she ill-treated all his guests ; and he vowed that, willing or unwilling, she should marry the first beggar that came to the door

Two days after there came by a travelling musician,

who began to sing under the window, and beg alms : and when the king heard him, he said, " Let him come in." So they brought in a dirty-looking fellow ; and when he had sung before the king and the princess, he begged a boon. Then the king said, " You have sung so well, that I will give you my daughter for your wife." The princess begged and prayed ; but the king said, " I have sworn to give you to the first beggar, and I will keep my word." So words and tears were of no avail : the parson was sent for, and she was married to the musician. When this was over, the king said, " Now get ready to go ; you must not stay here ; you must travel on with your husband."

Then the beggar departed, and took her with him ; and they soon came to a great wood. " Pray," said she, " whose is this wood ?" " It belongs to king Grisly-beard," answered he ; " hadst thou taken him, all had been thine." " Ah ! unlucky wretch that I am !" sighed she, " would that I had married king Grisly-beard !" Next they came to some fine meadows. " Whose are these beautiful green meadows ?" said she. " They belong to king Grisly-beard ; hadst thou taken him, they had all been thine." " Ah ! unlucky wretch that I am !" said she, " would that I had married king Grisly-beard !" " They then came to a great city. " Whose is this noble city ?" said she. " It belongs to king Grisly-beard ; hadst thou taken him, it had all been thine." " Ah ! miserable wretch that I am !" sighed she, " why did I not marry king Grisly-beard ?" " That is no business of mine," said the musician ; " why should you wish for another husband ? am not I good enough for you ?"

At last they came to a small cottage. " What a paltry place !" said she ; " to whom does that little dirty hole belong ?" The musician answered, " That is your and my house, where we are to live." " Where are your

servants ?” cried she. “What do we want with servants ?” said he, “you must do for yourself whatever is to be done. Now make the fire, and put on water and cook my supper, for I am very tired.” But the princess knew nothing of making fires and cooking, and the beggar was forced to help her. When they had eaten a very scanty meal they went to bed, but the musician called her up very early in the morning to clean the house. Thus they lived for two days : and when they had eaten up all there was in the cottage, the man said, “Wife, we can’t go on thus, spending money and earning nothing. You must learn to weave baskets.” Then he went out and cut willows and brought them home, and she began to weave ; but it made her fingers very sore. “I see this work won’t do,” said he, “try and spin ; perhaps you will do that better.” So she sat down and tried to spin ; but the threads cut her tender fingers till the blood ran. “See now,” said the musician, “you are good for nothing, you can do no work ;—what a bargain I have got ! However, I’ll try and set up a trade in pots and pans, and you shall stand in the market and sell them.” “Alas !” sighed she, “when I stand in the market and any of my father’s court pass by and see me there, how they will laugh at me !”

But the beggar did not care for that, and said she must work, if she did not wish to die of hunger. At first the trade went well ; for many people, seeing such a beautiful woman, went to buy her wares, and paid their money without thinking of taking away the goods. They lived on this as long as it lasted, and then her husband brought a fresh lot of ware, and she sat herself down with it in the corner of the market ; but a drunken soldier soon came by, and rode his horse against her stall and broke all her goods into a thousand pieces. Then she began to weep, and knew not what to do. “Ah !

what will become of me!" said she; "what will my husband say?" So she ran home and told him all "Who would have thought you would have been so silly," said he, "as to put an earthenware stall in the corner of the market, where everybody passes?—But let us have no more crying; I see you are not fit for this sort of work: so I have been to the king's palace, and asked if they did not want a kitchen-maid, and they have promised to take you, and there you will have plenty to eat."

Thus the princess became a kitchen-maid, and helped the cook to do all the dirtiest work: she was allowed to carry home some of the meat that was left, and on this she and her husband lived.

She had not been there long, before she heard that the king's eldest son was passing by, going to be married; and she went to one of the windows and looked out. Everything was ready, and all the pomp and splendour of the court was there. Then she thought with an aching heart on her own sad fate, and bitterly grieved for the pride and folly which had brought her so low. And the servants gave her some of the rich meats, which she put into her basket to take home.

All on a sudden, as she was going out, in came the king's son in golden clothes: and when he saw a beautiful woman at the door, he took her by the hand, and said she should be his partner in the dance: but she trembled for fear, for she saw that it was king Grisly-beard, who was making sport of her. However, he kept fast hold and led her in; and the cover of the basket came off, so that the meats in it fell all about. Then every body laughed and jeered at her; and she was so abashed that she wished herself a thousand feet deep in the earth. She sprang to the door to run away; but on the steps king Grisly-beard overtook and brought her back, and

said, "Fear me not ! I am the musician who has lived with you in the hut : I brought you there because I loved you. I am also the soldier who overset your stall. I have done all this only to cure you of pride, and to punish you for the ill-treatment you bestowed on me. Now all is over ; you have learnt wisdom, your faults are gone, and it is time to celebrate our marriage feast !"

Then the chamberlains came and brought her the most beautiful robes : and her father and his whole court were there already, and congratulated her on her marriage. Joy was in every face. The feast was grand, and all were merry ; and I wish you and I had been of the party.

VIII

SNOW-DROP

It was in the middle of winter, when the broad flakes of snow were falling around, that a certain queen sat working at a window, the frame of which was made of fine black ebony ; and as she was looking out upon the snow, she pricked her finger, and three drops of blood fell upon it. Then she gazed thoughtfully upon the red drops which sprinkled the white snow, and said, " Would that my little daughter may be as white as that snow, as red as the blood, and as black as the ebony window frame ! " And so the little girl grew up : her skin was as white as snow, her cheeks as rosy as the blood, and her hair as black as ebony ; and she was called Snow-drop.

But this queen died ; and the king soon married another wife, who was very beautiful, but so proud that she could not bear to think that any one could surpass her. She had a magical looking-glass, to which she used to go and gaze upon herself in it, and say,

" Tell me, glass. tell me true !
Of all the ladies in the land,
Who is the fairest ? tell me who ? "

And the glass answered,

" Thou, queen, art fairest in the land. "

But Snow-drop grew more and more beautiful ; and when she was seven years old, she was as bright as the day, and fairer than the queen herself. Then the glass one day answered the queen, when she went to consult it as usual,

“Thou, queen, may'st fair and beauteous be,
But Snow drop is lovelier far than thee !”

When she heard this she turned pale with rage and envy ; and called to one of her servants and said, “Take Snow-drop away into the wide wood, that I may never see her more.” Then the servant led her away ; but his heart melted when she begged him to spare her life, and he said, “I will not hurt thee, thou pretty child.” So he left her by herself ; and though he thought it most likely that the wild beasts would tear her in pieces, he felt as if a great weight were taken off his heart when he had made up his mind not to kill her, but leave her to her fate.

Then poor Snow-drop wandered along through the wood in great fear ; and the wild beasts roared about her, but none did her any harm. In the evening she came to a little cottage, and went in there to rest herself, for her little feet would carry her no further. Every thing was spruce and neat in the cottage : on the table was spread a white cloth, and there were seven little plates with seven little loaves, and seven little glasses with wine in them ; and knives and forks laid in order ; and by the wall stood seven little beds. Then as she was very hungry, she picked a little piece off each loaf, and drank a very little wine out of each glass, and after that she thought she would lie down and rest. So she tried all the little beds ; and one was too long, and another was too short, till at last the seventh suited her ; and there she laid herself down and went to sleep. Presently in came the masters of the cottage, who were seven little

dwarfs that lived among the mountains, and dug and searched about for gold. They lighted up their seven lamps, and saw directly that all was not right. The first said, "Who has been sitting on my stool?" The second, "Who has been eating off my plate?" The third, "Who has been picking my bread?" The fourth, "Who has been meddling with my spoon?" The fifth, "Who has been handling my fork?" The sixth, "Who has been cutting with my knife?" The seventh, "Who has been drinking my wine?" Then the first looked round and said, "Who has been lying on my bed?" And the rest came running to him, and every one cried out that somebody had been upon his bed. But the seventh saw Snow-drop, and called all his brethren to come and see her; and they cried out with wonder and astonishment, and brought their lamps to look at her, and said, "Good heavens! what a lovely child she is!" And they were delighted to see her, and took care not to wake her; and the seventh dwarf slept an hour with each of the other dwarfs in turn, till the night was gone.

In the morning Snow-drop told them all her story; and they pitied her, and said if she would keep all things in order, and cook and wash, and knit and spin for them, she might stay where she was, and they would take good care of her. Then they went out all day long to their work, seeking for gold and silver in the mountains; and Snow-drop remained at home: and they warned her, and said, "The queen will soon find out where you are, so take care and let no one in."

But the queen, now that she thought Snow-drop was dead, believed that she was certainly the handsomest lady in the land; and she went to her glass and said,

"Tell me, glass, tell me true!
Of all the ladies in the land,
Who is fairest? tell me who?"



SNOWDROP

The dwarfs cried out with wonder and astonishment at the sight then I jump to look at her and said, "Good heavens! what a lovely child she is

And the glass answered,

“Thou, queen, art the fairest in all this land;
But over the hills, in the greenwood shade
Where the seven dwarfs their dwelling have made
There Snow-drop is hiding her head, and she
Is lovelier far, O queen, than thou art.”

Then the queen was very much alarmed for to know that the glass always spoke the truth, and was sure that the servant had betrayed her. And she could not bear to think that any one lived who was more beautiful than she was, so she disguised herself as an old pedlar and went her way over the hills to the place where the dwarfs dwelt. Then she knocked at the door, and cried “Fire-ware to sell!” Snow-drop looked out at the window, and said, “Good-day good woman; what have you to sell?” “Good wares, fine wares,” said she; “combs and bobbins of all colours.” “I will let the old lady in; she seems to be a very good sort of body,” thought Snow-drop; so she ran down and unbolted the door. “Bless me!” said the old woman, “how badly your stays are laced! Let me lace them up with one of my new laces.” Snow-drop did not dream of any mischief; so she stood up before the old woman, but she set to work so nimbly, and pulled the lace so tight, that Snow-drop lost her breath, and fell down as if she were dead. “There’s an end of all thy beauty,” said the spiteful queen, and went away home.

In the evening the seven dwarfs returned, and it need not say how grieved they were to see their faithful Snow-drop stretched upon the ground motionless, as if she were quite dead. However, they lifted her up, and when they found what was the matter, they cut the lace; and in a little time she began to breathe, and soon came to life again. Then they said, “The old woman was the

queen herself ; take care another time, and let no one in when we are away."

When the queen got home, she went straight to her glass, and spoke to it as usual ; but to her great surprise it still said,

"Thou, queen, art the fairest in all this land ;
But over the hills, in the greenwood shade,
Where the seven dwarfs their dwelling have made,
There Snow drop is hiding her head ; and she
Is lovelier far, O queen, than thee "

Then the blood ran cold in her heart with spite and malice to see that Snow-drop still lived ; and she dressed herself up again in a disguise, but very different from the one she wore before, and took with her a poisoned comb. When she reached the dwarfs' cottage, she knocked at the door, and cried, "Fine wares to sell !" but Snow-drop said, "I dare not let any one in " Then the queen said, "Only look at my beautiful combs ;" and gave her the poisoned one. And it looked so pretty that she took it up and put it into her hair to try it, but the moment it touched her head the poison was so powerful that she fell down senseless. "There you may lie," said the queen, and went her way. But by good luck the dwarfs returned very early that evening ; and when they saw Snow-drop lying on the ground, they thought what had happened, and soon found the poisoned comb. And when they took it away, she recovered, and told them all that had passed ; and they warned her once more not to open the door to any one.

Meantime the queen went home to her glass, and trembled with rage when she received exactly the same answer as before ; and she said, "Snow-drop shall die, if it costs me my life." So she went secretly into a chamber, and prepared a poisoned apple : the outside looked very rosy and tempting, but whoever tasted it was sure to die.

Then she dressed herself up as a peasant's wife, and travelled over the hills to the dwarfs' cottage, and knocked at the door ; but Snow-drop put her head out of the window, and said, " I dare not let any one in, for the dwarfs have told me not." " Do as you please," said the old woman, " but at any rate take this pretty apple ; I will make you a present of it." " No," said Snow-drop, " I dare not take it." " You silly girl !" answered the other, " what are you afraid of ? do you think it is poisoned ? Come ! do you eat one part, and I will eat the other." Now the apple was so prepared that one side was good, though the other side was poisoned. Then Snow-drop was very much tempted to taste, for the apple looked exceedingly nice ; and when she saw the old woman eat, she could refrain no longer. But she had scarcely put the piece into her mouth, when she fell down dead upon the ground. " This time nothing will save thee," said the queen ; and she went home to her glass, and at last it said

" Thou, queen, art the fairest of all the fair."

And then her envious heart was glad, and as happy as such a heart could be.

When evening came, and the dwarfs returned home, they found Snow-drop lying on the ground : no breath passed her lips, and they were afraid that she was quite dead. They lifted her up, and combed her hair, and washed her face with wine and water ; but all was in vain, for the little girl seemed quite dead. So they laid her down upon a bier, and all seven watched and bewailed her three whole days ; and then they proposed to bury her : but her cheeks were still rosy, and her face looked just as it did while she was alive, so they said, " We will never bury her in the cold ground." And they made a coffin of glass so that they might still look at her, and

wrote her name upon it, in golden letters, and that she was a king's daughter. And the coffin was placed upon the hill, and one of the dwarfs always sat by it and watched. And the birds of the air came too, and bemoaned Snow-drop : first of all came an owl, and then a raven, but at last came a dove.

And thus Snow-drop lay for a long, long time, and still only looked as though she were asleep ; for she was even now as white as snow, and as red as blood, and as black as ebony. At last a prince came and called at the dwarfs' house ; and he saw Snow-drop, and read what was written in golden letters. Then he offered the dwarfs money, and earnestly prayed them to let him take her away ; but they said, " We will not part with her for all the gold in the world." At last, however, they had pity on him, and gave him the coffin : but the moment he lifted it up to carry it home with him, the piece of apple fell from between her lips, and Snow-drop awoke, and said " Where am I ?" And the prince answered, " Thou art safe with me." Then he told her all that had happened, and said, " I love you better than all the world : come with me to my father's palace, and you shall be my wife." And Snow-drop consented, and went home with the prince ; and everything was prepared with great pomp and splendour for their wedding.

To the feast was invited, among the rest, Snow-drop's old enemy the queen , and as she was dressing herself in fine rich clothes, she looked in the glass and said,

" Tell me, glass, tell me true !
Of all the ladies in the land,
Who is fairest ? tell me who ?"

And the glass answered,

" Thou, lady, art loveliest *here*, I ween ;
But lovelier far is the new-made queen !"

When she heard this, she started with rage ; but her envy and curiosity was so great, that she could not help setting out to see the bride. And when she arrived, and saw that it was no other than Snow-drop, who, as she thought, had been dead a long while, she choked with passion, and fell ill and died ; but Snow-drop and the prince lived and reigned happily over that land many, many years.

IX

THE LADY AND THE LION

A MERCHANT, who had three daughters, was once setting out upon a journey ; but before he went he asked each daughter what gift he should bring back for her. The eldest wished for pearls ; the second for jewels ; but the third said, " Dear father, bring me a rose." Now it was no easy task to find a rose, for it was the middle of winter ; yet, as she was the fairest daughter, and was very fond of flowers, her father said he would try what he could do. So he kissed all three, and bid them good-bye. And when the time came for his return, he had bought pearls and jewels for the two eldest, but he had sought everywhere in vain for the rose ; and when he went into any garden and inquired for such a thing, the people laughed at him, and asked him whether he thought roses grew in snow. This grieved him very much, for his third daughter was his dearest child ; and as he was journeying home, thinking what he should bring her, he came to a fine castle ; and around the castle was a garden, in half of which it appeared to be summer time, and in the other half winter. On one side the finest flowers were in full bloom, and on the other everything looked desolate and buried in snow. " A lucky hit ! " said he as he called to his servant, and told him to go to a beautiful bed of roses that was there, and bring him away one of the flowers. This done, they were riding away well pleased, when a fierce lion sprung up, and roared out, " Whoever

dares to steal my roses shall be eaten up alive." Then the man said, "I knew not that the garden belonged to you; can nothing save my life?" "No!" said the lion, "nothing, unless you promise to give me whatever meets you first on your return home; if you agree to this, I will give you your life, and the rose too for your daughter." But the man was unwilling to do so, and said, "It may be my youngest daughter, who loves me most, and always runs to meet me when I go home." Then the servant was greatly frightened, and said, "It may perhaps be only a cat or a dog." And at last the man yielded with a heavy heart, and took the rose; and promised the lion whatever should meet him first on his return.

And as he came near home, it was his youngest and dearest daughter that met him; she came running and kissed him, and welcomed him home; and when she saw that he had brought her the rose, she rejoiced still more. But her father began to be very melancholy, and to weep, saying, "Alas! my dearest child! I have bought this flower dear, for I have promised to give you to a wild lion, and when he has you, he will tear you in pieces, and eat you." And he told her all that had happened; and said she should not go, let what would happen.

But she comforted him, and said, "Dear father, what you have promised must be fulfilled; I will go to the lion, and soothe him, that he may let me return again safe home."

The next morning she asked the way she was to go, and took leave of her father, and went forth with a bold heart into the wood. But the lion was an enchanted prince, and by day he and all his court were lions, but in the evening they took their proper forms again. And when the lady came to the castle, he welcomed her so courteously that she consented to marry him. The wedding-feast was held, and they lived happily together

a long time. The prince was only to be seen as soon as evening came, and then he held his court ; but every morning he left his bride, and went away by himself, she knew not whither, till night came again.

After some time he said to her, "To-morrow there will be a great feast in your father's house, for your eldest sister is to be married ; and, if you wish to go to visit her, my lions shall lead you thither." Then she rejoiced much at the thoughts of seeing her father once more, and set out with the lions ; and every one was overjoyed to see her, for they had thought her dead long since. But she told them how happy she was ; and stayed till the feast was over, and then went back to the wood.

Her second sister was soon after married ; and when she was invited to the wedding, she said to the prince, "I will not go alone this time ; you must go with me." But he would not, and said that would be a very hazardous thing, for if the least ray of the torch light should fall upon him, his enchantment would become still worse, for he should be changed into a dove, and be obliged to wander about the world for seven long years. However, she gave him no rest, and said she would take care no light should fall upon him. So at last they set out together, and took with them their little child too ; and she chose a large hall with thick walls, for him to sit in while the wedding torches were lighted ; but unluckily no one observed that there was a crack in the door. Then the wedding was held with great pomp ; but as the train came from the church, and passed with the torches before the hall, a very small ray of light fell upon the prince. In a moment he disappeared ; and when his wife came in, and sought him, she found only a white dove. Then he said to her, "Seven years must I fly up and down over the face of the earth ; but every now and then I will let fall a white feather, that shall show

you the way I am going ; follow it, and at last you may overtake and set me free."

This said, he flew out of the door, and she followed ; and every now and then a white feather fell, and showed her the way she was to journey. Thus she went roving on through the wide world, and looked neither to the right hand nor to the left, nor took any rest for seven years. Then she began to rejoice, and thought to herself that the time was fast coming when all her troubles should cease ; yet repose was still far off : for one day as she was travelling on, she missed the white feather, and when she lifted up her eyes she could nowhere see the dove. " Now," thought she to herself, " no human aid can be of use to me ;" so she went to the sun, and said, " Thou shinest everywhere, on the mountain's top, and the valley's depth : hast thou anywhere seen a white dove ?" " No," said the sun, " I have not seen it ; but I will give thee a casket—open it when thy hour of need comes." So she thanked the sun, and went on her way till eventide ; and when the moon arose, she cried unto it, and said, " Thou shinest through all the night, over field and grove : hast thou anywhere seen a white dove ?" " No," said the moon, " I cannot help thee ; but I will give thee an egg—break it when need comes." Then she thanked the moon, and went on till the night-wind blew ; and she raised up her voice to it, and said, " Thou blowest through every tree and under every leaf : hast thou not seen the 'white dove ?'" " No," said the night-wind ; " but I will ask three other winds ; perhaps they have seen it." Then the east wind and the west wind came, and said they too had not seen it ; but the south wind said, " I have seen the white dove ; he has fled to the Red Sea, and is changed once more into a lion, for the seven years are passed away ; and there he is fighting with a dragon, and the dragon is an enchanted

princess, who seeks to separate him from you." Then the night-wind said, "I will give thee counsel : go to the Red Sea ; on the right shore stand many rods ; number them, and when thou comest to the eleventh, break it off and smite the dragon with it ; and so the lion will have the victory, and both of them will appear to you in their human forms. Then instantly set out with thy beloved prince, and journey home over sea and land."

So our poor wanderer went forth, and found all as the night-wind had said ; and she plucked the eleventh rod, and smote the dragon, and immediately the lion became a prince and the dragon a princess again. But she forgot the counsel which the night-wind had given ; and the false princess watched her opportunity, and took the prince by the arm, and carried him away.

Thus the unfortunate traveller was again forsaken and forlorn ; but she took courage and said, "As far as the wind blows, and so long as the cock crows, I will journey on till I find him once again." She went on for a long long way, till at length she came to the castle whither the princess had carried the prince ; and there was a feast prepared, and she heard that the wedding was about to be held. "Heaven aid me now !" said she ; and she took the casket that the sun had given her, and found that within it lay a dress as dazzling as the sun itself. So she put it on, and went into the palace ; and all the people gazed upon her ; and the dress pleased the bride so much that she asked whether it was to be sold : "Not for gold and silver," answered she ; "but for flesh and blood." The princess asked what she meant ; and she said, "Let me speak with the bridegroom this night in his chamber, and I will give thee the dress." At last the princess agreed ; but she told her chamberlain to give the prince a sleeping-draught, that he might not hear or see her.

When evening came, and the prince had fallen asleep, she was led into his chamber, and she sat herself down at his feet and said, "I have followed thee seven years; I have been to the sun, the moon, and the night-wind, to seek thee; and at last I have helped thee to overcome the dragon. Wilt thou then forget me quite?" But the prince slept so soundly that her voice only passed over him, and seemed like the murmuring of the wind among the fir-trees.

Then she was led away, and forced to give up the golden dress; and when she saw that there was no help for her, she went out into a meadow and sat herself down and wept. But as she sat she bethought herself of the egg that the moon had given her; and when she broke it, there ran out a hen and twelve chickens of pure gold, that played about, and then nestled under the old one's wings, so as to form the most beautiful sight in the world. And she rose up, and drove them before her till the bride saw them from her window, and was so pleased that she came forth, and asked her if she would sell the brood. "Not for gold or silver; but for flesh and blood: let me again this evening speak with the bridegroom in his chamber."

Then the princess thought to betray her as before, and agreed to what she asked; but when the prince went to his chamber, he asked the chamberlain why the wind had murmured so in the night. And, the chamberlain told him all; how he had given him a sleeping-draught, and a poor maiden had come and spoken to him in his chamber, and was to come again that night. Then the prince took care to throw away the sleeping-draught; and when she came and began again to tell him what woes had befallen her, and how faithful and true to him she had been, he knew his beloved wife's voice, and sprung up, and said, "You have awakened me as from a dream;

for the strange princess had thrown a spell around me, so that I had altogether forgotten you : but heaven hath sent you to me in a lucky hour."

And they stole away out of the palace by night secretly (for they feared the princess), and journeyed home ; and there they found their child, now grown comely and fair, and lived happily together to the end of their days.

X

THE KING OF THE GOLDEN MOUNTAIN

A CERTAIN merchant had two children, a son and daughter, both very young, and scarcely able to run alone. He had two richly laden ships then making a voyage upon the seas, in which he had embarked all his property, in the hope of making great gains, when the news came that they were lost. Thus from being a rich man he became very poor, so that nothing was left him but one small plot of land ; and, to relieve his mind a little of his trouble, he often went out to walk there.

One day, as he was roving along, a little rough-looking dwarf stood before him, and asked him why he was so sorrowful, and what it was that he took so deeply to heart. But the merchant replied, " If you could do me any good, I would tell you." " Who knows but I may ?" said the little man ; " tell me what is the matter, and perhaps I can be of some service." Then the merchant told him how all his wealth was gone to the bottom of the sea, and how he had nothing left except that little plot of land " Oh ! trouble not yourself about that," said the dwarf ; " only promise to bring me here, twelve years hence, whatever meets you first on your return home, and I will give you as much gold as you please." The merchant thought this was no great request ; that it would most likely be his dog, or something of that sort, but forgot his little child : so he agreed to the bargain, and signed and sealed the engagement to do what was required.

But as he drew near home, his little boy was so pleased to see him, that he crept behind him and laid fast hold of his legs. Then the father started with fear, and saw what it was that he had bound himself to do ; but as no gold was come, he consoled himself by thinking that it was only a joke that the dwarf was playing him.

About a month afterwards he went upstairs into an old lumber-room to look for some old iron, that he might sell it and raise a little money ; and there he saw a large pile of gold lying on the floor. At the sight of this he was greatly delighted, went into trade again, and became a greater merchant than before.

Meantime his son grew up, and as the end of the twelve years drew near, the merchant became very anxious and thoughtful ; so that care and sorrow were written upon his face. The son one day asked what was the matter : but his father refused to tell for some time ; at last, however, he said that he had, without knowing it, sold him to a little ugly-looking dwarf for a great quantity of gold ; and that the twelve years were coming round when he must perform his agreement. Then the son said, " Father, give yourself very little trouble about that ; depend upon it I shall be too much for the little man."

When the time came, they went out together to the appointed place ; and the son drew a circle on the ground, and set himself and his father in the middle. The little dwarf soon came, and said to the merchant, " Have you brought me what you promised ?" The old man was silent, but his son answered, " What do you want here ?" The dwarf said, " I come to talk with your father, not with you." " You have deceived and betrayed my father," said the son ; " give him up his bond." " No," replied the other, " I will not yield up my rights." Upon this a long dispute arose ; and at last it was agreed that the son should be put into an open boat, that lay on the

side of a piece of water hard by, and that the father should push him off with his own hand ; so that he should be turned adrift. Then he took leave of his father, and set himself in the boat ; and as it was pushed off it heaved, and fell on one side into the water : so the merchant thought that his son was lost, and went home very sorrowful.

But the boat went safely on, and did not sink ; and the young man sat securely within, till at length it ran ashore upon an unknown land. As he jumped upon the shore, he saw before him a beautiful castle, but empty and desolate within, for it was enchanted. At last, however, he found a white snake in one of the chambers.

Now the white snake was an enchanted princess ; and she rejoiced greatly to see him, and said, " Art thou at last come to be my deliverer ? Twelve long years have I waited for thee, for thou alone canst save me. This night twelve men will come : their faces will be black, and they will be hung round with chains. They will ask what thou dost here ; but be silent, give no answer, and let them do what they will—beat and torment thee. Suffer all, only speak not a word ; and at twelve o'clock they must depart. The second night twelve others will come ; and the third night twenty-four, who will even cut off thy head ; but at the twelfth hour of that night their power is gone, and I shall be free, and will come and bring thee the water of life, and will wash thee with it, and restore thee to life and health." And all came to pass as she had said ; the merchant's son spoke not a word, and the third night the princess appeared, and fell on his neck and kissed him ; joy and gladness burst forth throughout the castle ; the wedding was celebrated, and he was king of the Golden Mountain.

They lived together very happily, and the queen had a son. Eight years had passed over their heads when

the king thought of his father : and his heart was moved, and he longed to see him once again. But the queen opposed his going, and said, " I know well that misfortunes will come." However, he gave her no rest till she consented. At his departure she presented him with a wishing-ring, and said, " Take this ring, and put it on your finger ; whatever you wish it will bring you : only promise that you will not make use of it to bring me hence to your father's." Then he promised what she asked, and put the ring on his finger, and wished himself near the town where his father lived. He found himself at the gates in a moment ; but the guards would not let him enter because he was so strangely clad. So he went up to a neighbouring mountain where a shepherd dwelt, and borrowed his old frock, and thus passed unobserved into the town. When he came to his father's house, he said he was his son ; but the merchant would not believe him, and said he had had but one son, who he knew was long since dead : and as he was only dressed like a poor shepherd, he would not even offer him anything to eat. The king, however, persisted that he was his son, and said, " Is there no mark by which you would know if I am really your son ?" " Yes," observed his mother, " our son has a mark like a raspberry under the right arm." Then he showed them the mark, and they were satisfied that what he had said was true. He next told them how he was king of the Golden Mountain, and was married to a princess, and had a son seven years old. But the merchant said, " That can never be true ; he must be a fine king truly who travels about in a shepherd's frock." At this the son was very angry ; and, forgetting his promise, turned his ring, and wished for his queen and son. In an instant they stood before him but the queen wept, and said he had broken his word, and misfortune would follow. He did all he could to

soothe her, and she at last appeared to be appeased ; but she was not so in reality, and only meditated how she should take her revenge.

One day he took her to walk with him out of the town, and showed her the spot where the boat was turned adrift upon the wide waters. Then he sat himself down, and said, " I am very much tired ; sit by me, I will rest my head in your lap, and sleep a while." As soon as he had fallen asleep, however, she drew the ring from his finger, and crept softly away, and wished herself and her son at home in their kingdom. And when the king awoke, he found himself alone, and saw that the ring was gone from his finger. " I can never return to my father's house," said he ; " they would say I am a sorcerer : I will journey forth into the world till I come again to my kingdom."

So saying, he set out and travelled till he came to a mountain, where three giants were sharing their inheritance ; and as they saw him pass, they cried out and said, " Little men have sharp wits ; he shall divide the inheritance between us." Now it consisted of a sword that cut off an enemy's head whenever the wearer gave the words " Heads off !"—a cloak that made the owner invisible, or gave him any form he pleased ; and a pair of boots that transported the person who put them on wherever he wished. The king said they must first let him try these wonderful things, that he might know how to set a value upon them. Then they gave him the cloak, and he wished himself a fly, and in a moment he was a fly. " The cloak is very well," said he ; " now give me the sword." " No," said they, " not unless you promise not to say ' Heads off !' for if you do, we are all dead men." So they gave it him on condition that he tried its virtue only on a tree. He next asked for the boots also ; and the moment he had all three in his possession

he wished himself at the Golden Mountain ; and there he was in an instant. So the giants were left behind with no inheritance to divide or quarrel about.

As he came near to the castle he heard the sound of merry music ; and the people around told him that his queen was about to celebrate her marriage with another prince. Then he threw his cloak around him, and passed, through the castle, and placed himself by the side of his queen, where no one saw him. But when anything to eat was put upon her plate, he took it away and ate it himself ; and when a glass of wine was handed to her, he took and drank it : and thus, though they kept on serving her with meat and drink, her plate continued always empty.

Upon this, fear and remorse came over her, and she went into her chamber and wept ; and he followed her there. " Alas !" said she to herself, " did not my deliverer come ? why then doth enchantment still surround me ?"

" Thou traitress !" said he, " thy deliverer indeed came, and now is near thee : has he deserved this of thee ?" And he went out and dismissed the company, and said the wedding was at an end, for that he was returned to his kingdom : but the princes and nobles and counsellors mocked at him. However, he would enter into no parley with them, but only demanded whether they would depart in peace, or not. Then they turned and tried to seize him ; but he drew his sword, and, with a word, the traitors' heads fell before him ; and he was once more king of the Golden Mountain.

XI

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

THERE was once a sweet little girl whom everybody that looked upon loved, but most of all her grandmother, who felt she could never bestow too much upon her. She once gave her a little riding hood of red velvet, and it suited her so well that she would wear nothing else so the child was always called Little Red Riding-Hood. Her mother said to her one day, "Come Little Red Riding-Hood, here is a nice fresh baked cake, and a bottle of wine, carry it to your grandmother, she has been ill, and is still weak, therefore, it will do her good. Set off before it becomes warm, and go like a good child, walk steadily and do not run about, else you will fall and break the glass, and grandmother will lose her wine. And when you go into her room, do not forget to say, 'Good-morning' before you begin to look about."

"I will mind all you say, mother," returned Little Red Riding-Hood, and promised it very faithfully. Now the grandmother lived beyond in the wood, half a mile from the village, and when the child came into the wood, the first thing she met was a wolf, but not knowing what a wicked creature he was, she felt no fear of him. "Good-morning, Red Riding-Hood," said he. "Thank you, wolf." "Where are you going so early?" "To my grandmother." "What are you carrying in your apron?" "Cake and wine. We baked yesterday, and I take something to strengthen my grandmother, who has been sick."

"Where does she live, Red Riding-Hood?" "About a quarter of a mile further in the wood, under the three large oaks, stands her cottage, with a nut-hedge round it; you will soon find it," said Red Riding-Hood. The wolf thought to himself, "A tender young thing, nice and fat too; she will taste better than the old woman, but, if you manage well, you may dine off both." So he kept by the side of Red Riding-Hood for a little while; then he said, "Look at the pretty flowers that grow about. I do not think you see them at all, or hear the birds singing so beautifully; you go along as if you were going to school, and do not enjoy yourself in the wood." Red Riding-Hood began to look around, and when she saw how the sunbeams streamed and danced through the branches of the trees, and the numbers of flowers that grew around, she thought, "I might as well take my grandmother a nosegay; it would please her, and it is still so early that I have plenty of time." So she left the path, and wandered first one way, then another, gathering flowers, always thinking that one she saw was finer than that she had plucked; so that she insensibly plunged deeper into the wood. The wolf, however, went straight to the grandmother's house, and knocked at the door. "Who is there?" "Little Red Riding-Hood, who brings you some cake and wine; open the door." "Press the latch," said the grandmother; "I am too weak, and cannot rise." The wolf obeyed, the door sprang open, and he entered; then, without saying a word, he went to the bedside, and swallowed up the grandmother; after which, he put on her dress and her cap, laid himself on her bed, and drew the curtain.

Red Riding-Hood in the meantime continued to run about gathering flowers, until she could carry no more. Then remembering her grandmother, she again pursued her way. Upon coming to the cottage, she wondered at

the door being open, and when she entered the room, it all seemed so strange to her that she said to herself, "What can be the reason that I feel so oddly to-day? I am generally so happy to come to grandmother." However, she did not forget to say, "Good-morning, grandmother"; but received no answer, so she went towards the bed, drew aside the curtain, and there lay the grandmother; but she had pulled her cap over her eyes, and looked very unlike herself. "Oh! grandmother, what large ears you have!" said the child. "The better to hear you." "Oh! grandmother, what large eyes you have!" "The better to see you." "Oh! grandmother, what large hands you have!" "The better to lay hold of you." "But, grandmother, what a horrible large mouth you have!" "The better to eat you." The words were hardly spoken before the wolf made a spring out of bed, and seized and swallowed poor Little Red Riding-Hood.

When the wolf had appeased his appetite, he again laid himself in bed, fell asleep, and began to snore tremendously. A huntsman, at this moment, happened to pass the cottage, and said to himself, "How the old woman snores! I must see if something is not the matter." He entered the room, and when he came to the bed, saw the wolf lying. "Oh! you old sinner!" said he, "do I find you here? I have been long looking for you." He took aim at the creature with his gun; but just then it occurred to him that the wolf might have swallowed the grandmother, and that she might be saved; so he took a pair of scissors, and cut open the wolf while he slept. When he had made a small opening, he saw Little Red Riding-Hood, and, in another moment, the child sprang out, exclaiming, "Oh! now frightened I have been, it was so dark inside the wolf!" Then came the grandmother out alive, although she could scarcely

breathe. Red Riding-Hood ran quickly for some large stones, and they filled the wolf quite full of them, and when he awoke, he thought to spring from the bed, but the stones were too heavy, and he sank down again quite dead. All three were now very happy; the huntsman skinned the wolf and went away; the grandmother ate the cake and drank the wine brought by Red Riding-Hood, and felt herself better; but Little Red Riding-Hood said to herself, "I will never again, all my life, stray from the path and run about the wood, when my mother forbids me." It is added, that some time afterwards, when Red Riding-Hood had again an errand to her grandmother, and was carrying her a cake, another wolf met her, and wished to draw her from the right way; but she was on her guard, hastened to her grandmother, and told her she had met a wolf on the way, that she had wished him good-day, but he looked so savagely at her that she was certain, if they had not met on the public road, he would have devoured her. "Come," said the grandmother, "we will fasten the door, that he may not come in." Shortly after, there was a knock, and they heard the wolf say, "Grandmother, open to Little Red Riding-Hood, who brings you some cake." They, however, were silent, and did not open the door; therefore, the wolf, after creeping several times round the house, sprang, at last, upon the roof, in order to wait until Little Red Riding-Hood returned home in the evening, intending to slip after her, and devour her in the dark; but the grandmother suspected his intention, and resolved accordingly. Before the house stood a large stone trough. She said to the child, "Red Riding-Hood, take your pail; yesterday I cooked sausages; bring the water in which they were boiled and pour it into the trough." Red Riding-Hood brought so much that the stone trough was filled, and the odour of the sausage

ascended to the wolf on the roof, who snuffed and peeped, and at last, stretched out his neck so far that he lost his footing and began to slip : once on the slide, he could not stop ; so he slipped completely into the great trough and was drowned. Red Riding-Hood then went on her way merrily, and met with nothing else to hurt her before she got home again.

XII

THE GOLDEN GOOSE

THERE was a man who had three sons. The youngest was called Dummeling, and was on all occasions despised and ill-treated by the whole family. It happened that the eldest took it into his head one day to go into the wood to cut fuel ; and his mother gave him a delicious pasty and a bottle of wine to take with him, that he might refresh himself at his work. As he went into the wood, a little old man bid him good-day, and said, " Give me a little piece of meat from your plate, and a little wine out of your bottle ; I am very hungry and thirsty." But this clever young man said, " Give you my meat and wine ! No, I thank you ; I should not have enough left for myself : " and away he went. He soon began to cut down a tree ; but he had not worked long before he missed his stroke, and cut himself, and was obliged to go home to have the wound dressed. Now it was the little old man that caused him this mischief.

Next went out the second son to work ; and his mother gave him too a pasty and a bottle of wine. And the same little old man met him also, and asked him for something to eat and drink. But he too thought himself vastly clever, and said, " Whatever you get, I shall lose ; so go your way ! " The little man took care that he should have his reward ; and the second stroke that he aimed against a tree, hit him on the leg ; so that he too was forced to go home.

Then Dummling said, "Father, I should like to go and cut wood too." But his father answered, "Your brothers have both lamed themselves; you had better stay at home, for you know nothing of the business." But Dummling was very pressing; and at last his father said, "Go your way; you will be wiser when you have suffered for your folly." And his mother gave him only some dry bread, and a bottle of sour beer; but when he went into the wood, he met the little old man, who said, "Give me some meat and drink, for I am very hungry and thirsty." Dummling said, "I have only dry bread and sour beer; if that will suit you, we will sit down and eat it together." So they sat down, and when the lad pulled out his bread behold it was turned into a capital pasty, and his sour beer became delightful wine. They ate and drank heartily; and when they had done, the little man said, "As you have a kind heart, and have been willing to share everything with me, I will send a blessing upon you. There stands an old tree, cut it down, and you will find something at the root." Then he took his leave, and went his way.

Dummling set to work, and cut down the tree; and when it fell, he found in a hollow under the roots a goose with feathers of pure gold. He took it up, and went on to an inn, where he proposed to sleep for the night. The landlord had three daughters; and when they saw the goose, they were very curious to examine what this wonderful bird could be, and wished very much to pluck one of the feathers of its tail. At last the eldest said, "I must and will have a feather." So she waited till his back was turned, and then seized the goose by the wing; but to her great surprise there she stuck, for neither hand nor finger could she get away again. Presently in came the second sister, and thought to have a feather too; but the moment she touched her sister, there

she too hung fast. At last came the third, and wanted a feather ; but the other two cried out, " Keep away ! for heaven's sake, keep away ! " However, she did not understand what they meant. " If they are there," thought she, " I may as well be there too." So she went up to them ; but the moment she touched her sisters she stuck fast, and hung to the goose as they did. And so they kept company with the goose all night.

The next morning Dummling carried off the goose under his arm, and took no notice of the three girls, but went out with them sticking fast behind ; and wherever he travelled, they too were obliged to follow, whether they would or no, as fast as their legs could carry them.

In the middle of a field the parson met them ; and when he saw the train, he said, " Are you not ashamed of yourselves, you bold girls, to run after the young man in that way over the fields ? is that proper behaviour ? " Then he took the youngest by the hand to lead her away ; but the moment he touched her he too hung fast, and followed in the train. Presently up came the clerk ; and when he saw his master the parson running after the three girls, he wondered greatly, and said, " Hollo ! hollo ! your reverence ! whither so fast ? there is a christening to-day." Then he ran up, and took him by the gown, and in a moment he was fast too. As the five were thus trudging along, one behind another, they met two labourers with their mattocks coming from work ; and the parson cried out to them to set him free. But scarcely had they touched him, when they too fell into the ranks, and so made seven, all running after Dummling and his goose.

At last they arrived at a city, where reigned a king who had an only daughter. The princess was of so thoughtful and serious a turn of mind that no one could

make her laugh ; and the king had proclaimed to all the world, that whoever could make her laugh should have her for his wife. When the young man heard this, he went to her with his goose and all its train ; and as soon as she saw the seven all hanging together, and running about, treading on each other's heels, she could not help bursting into a long and loud laugh. Then Dummling claimed her for his wife ; the wedding was celebrated, and he was heir to the kingdom, and lived long and happily with his wife.

XIII

HANSEL AND GRETTEL

HANSEL one day took his sister Grettel by the hand, and said, "Since our poor mother died we have had no happy days ; for our new mother beats us all day long, and when we go near her, she pushes us away. We have nothing but hard crusts to eat ; and the little dog that lies by the fire is better off than we ; for he sometimes has a nice piece of meat thrown to him. Heaven have mercy upon us ! O if our poor mother knew how we are used ! Come, we will go and travel over the wide world." They went the whole day walking over the fields, till in the evening they came to a great wood ; and then they were so tired and hungry that they sat down in a hollow tree and went to sleep.

In the morning when they awoke, the sun had risen high above the trees, and shone warm upon the hollow tree. Then Hansel said, "Sister, I am very thirsty · if I could find a brook, I would go and drink, and fetch you some water too. Listen, I think I hear the sound of one." Then Hansel rose up and took Grettel by the hand and went in search of the brook. But their cruel step-mother was a fairy, and had followed them into the wood to work them mischief : and when they had found a brook that ran sparkling over the pebbles, Hansel wanted to drink ; but Grettel thought she heard the brook, as it babbled along, say, "Whoever drinks here will be turned into a tiger." Then she cried out, "Ah,

brother ! do not drink, or you will be turned into a wild beast and tear me to pieces." Then Hansel yielded, although he was parched with thirst. "I will wait," said he, "for the next brook." But when they came to the next, Grettel listened again, and thought she heard, "Whoever drinks here will become a wolf." Then she cried out, "Brother, brother, do not drink, or you will become a wolf and eat me." So he did not drink, but said, "I will wait for the next brook ; there I must drink, say what you will, I am so thirsty."

As they came to the third brook, Grettel listened, and heard, "Whoever drinks here will become a fawn." "Ah, brother !" said she, "do not drink, or you will be turned into a fawn and run away from me." But Hansel had already stooped down upon his knees, and the moment he put his lips into the water he was turned into a fawn.

Grettel wept bitterly over the poor creature, and the tears too rolled down his eyes as he laid himself beside her. Then she said, "Rest in peace, dear fawn, I will never, never leave thee." So she took off her golden necklace and put it round his neck, and plucked some rushes and plaited them into a soft string to fasten to it ; and led the poor little thing by her side further into the wood.

After they had travelled a long way, they came at last to a little cottage ; and Grettel, having looked in and seen that it was quite empty, thought to herself, "We can stay and live here." Then she went and gathered leaves and moss to make a soft bed for the fawn : and every morning she went out and plucked nuts, roots, and berries for herself, and sweet shrubs and tender grass for her companion ; and it ate out of her hand, and was pleased, and played and frisked about her. In the evening, when Grettel was tired, and had said her prayers,

she laid her head upon the fawn for her pillow, and slept : and if poor Hansel could but have his right form again, they thought they should lead a very happy life.

They lived thus a long while in the wood by themselves, till it chanced that the king of that country came to hold a great hunt there. And when the fawn heard all around the echoing of the horns, and the baying of the dogs, and the merry shouts of the huntsmen, he wished very much to go and see what was going on. " Ah, sister, sister !" said he, " let me go out into the wood, I can stay no longer." And he begged so long, that she at last agreed to let him go. " But," said she, " be sure to come to me in the evening ; I shall shut up the door to keep out those wild huntsmen ; and if you tap at it, and say, ' Sister, let me in,' I shall know you ; but if you don't speak, I shall keep the door fast." Then away sprang the fawn, and frisked and bounded along in the open air. The king and his huntsmen saw the beautiful creature, and followed but could not overtake him ; for when they thought they were sure of their prize, he sprang over the bushes and was out of sight in a moment.

As it grew dark he came running home to the hut, and tapped, and said " Sister, sister, let me in." Then she opened the little door, and in he jumped and slept soundly all night on his soft bed.

Next morning the hunt began again ; and when he heard the huntsmen's horns, he said, " Sister, open the door for me, I must go again." Then she let him out, and said, " Come back in the evening, and remember what you are to say." When the king and the huntsmen saw the fawn with the golden collar again, they gave him chase ; but he was too quick for them. The chase lasted the whole day ; but at last the huntsmen nearly surrounded him, and one of them wounded him in the foot, so that he became sadly lame and could hardly

crawl home. The man who had wounded him followed close behind, and hid himself, and heard the little fawn say, "Sister, sister, let me in:" upon which the door opened and soon shut again. The huntsman marked all well, and went to the king and told him what he had seen and heard; then the king said, "To-morrow we will have another chase."

Grettel was very much frightened when she saw that her dear little fawn was wounded; but she washed the blood away and put some healing herbs on it, and said, "Now go to bed, dear fawn, and you will soon be well again." The wound was so small, that in the morning there was nothing to be seen of it; and when the horn blew, the little creature said, "I can't stay here, I must go and look on; I will take care that none of them shall catch me." But Grettel said, "I am sure they will kill you this time, I will not let you go." "I shall die of vexation," answered he, "if you keep me here: when I hear the horns, I feel as if I could fly." Then Grettel was forced to let him go; so she opened the door with a heavy heart, and he bounded out gaily into the wood.

When the king saw him he said to his huntsman, "Now chase him all day long till you catch him; but let none of you do him any harm." The sun set, however, without their being able to overtake him, and the king called away the huntsmen, and said to the one who had watched, "Now come and show me the little hut." So they went to the door and tapped, and said, "Sister, sister, let me in." Then the door opened and the king went in, and there stood a maiden more lovely than any he had ever seen. Grettel was frightened to see that it was not her fawn, but a king with a golden crown that was come into her hut: however, he spoke kindly to her, and took her hand, and said, "Will you come with me to my castle and be my wife?" "Yes,"

said the maiden ; “ but my fawn must go with me, I cannot part with that.” “ Well,” said the king, “ he shall come and live with you all your life, and want for nothing.” Just at that moment in sprung the little fawn ; and his sister tied the string to his neck, and they left the hut in the wood together.

Then the king took Grettel to his palace, and celebrated the marriage in great state. And she told the king all her story ; and he sent for the fairy and punished her : and the fawn was changed into Hansel again, and he and his sister loved one another, and lived happily together all their days.

XIV

THE GIANT WITH THE THREE GOLDEN HAIRS

THERE was once a poor man who had an only son born to him. The child was born under a lucky star ; and those who told his fortune said that in his fourteenth year he would marry the king's daughter. It so happened that the king of that land soon after the child's birth passed through the village in disguise, and asked whether there was any news. "Yes," said the people, "a child has just been born, that they say is to be a lucky one, and when he is fourteen years old, he is fated to marry the king's daughter." This did not please the king ; so he went to the poor child's parents and asked them whether they would sell him their son ? "No," said they ; but the stranger begged very hard and offered a great deal of money, and they had scarcely bread to eat, so at last they consented, thinking to themselves, he is a luck's child, he can come to no harm.

The king took the child, put it into a box, and rode away ; but when he came to a deep stream, he threw it into the current, and said to himself, "That young gentleman will never be my daughter's husband." The box, however, floated down the stream ; some kind spirit watched over it so that no water reached the child, and at last about two miles from the king's capital it stopped at the dam of a mill. The miller soon saw it, and took a long pole, and drew it towards the shore, and finding it heavy, thought there was gold inside ; but when he

opened it, he found a pretty little boy, that smiled upon him merrily. Now the miller and his wife had no children, and therefore rejoiced to see the prize, saying, "Heaven has sent it to us;" so they treated it very kindly, and brought it up with such care that everyone admired and loved it.

About thirteen years passed over their heads, when the king came by accident to the mill, and asked the miller if that was his son. "No," said he, "I found him when a babe in a box in the mill-dam." "How long ago?" asked the king. "Some thirteen years," replied the miller. "He is a fine fellow," said the king, "can you spare him to carry a letter to the queen? it will please me very much, and I will give him two pieces of gold for his trouble." "As your majesty pleases," answered the miller.

Now the king had soon guessed that this was the child whom he had tried to drown; and he wrote a letter by him to the queen, saying, "As soon as the bearer of this arrives, let him be killed and immediately buried, so that all may be over before I return."

The young man set out with this letter, but missed his way, and came in the evening to a dark wood. Through the gloom he perceived a light at a distance, towards which he directed his course, and found that it proceeded from a little cottage. There was no one within except an old woman, who was frightened at seeing him, and said, "Why do you come hither, and whither are you going?" "I am going to the queen, to whom I was to have delivered a letter; but I lost my way, and shall be glad if you will give me a night's rest." "You are very unlucky," said she, "for this is a robber's hut, and if the band returns while you are here it may be worse for you." "I am so tired, however," replied he, "that I must take my chance, for I can go no further:" so he

laid the letter on the table, stretched himself out upon a bench, and fell asleep.

When the robbers came home and saw him, they asked the old woman who the strange lad was. "I have given him shelter for charity," said she; "he had a letter to carry to the queen, and lost his way." The robbers took up the letter, broke it open and read the directions which it contained to murder the bearer. Then their leader tore it, and wrote a fresh one desiring the queen, as soon as the young man arrived, to marry him to the king's daughter. Meantime they let him sleep on till morning broke, and then showed him the right way to the queen's palace; where, as soon as she had read the letter, she had all possible preparations made for the wedding; and as the young man was very beautiful the princess took him willingly for her husband.

After a while the king returned; and when he saw the prediction fulfilled, and that this child of fortune was, notwithstanding all his cunning, married to his daughter, he inquired eagerly how this had happened and what were the orders which he had given. "Dear husband," said the queen, "here is your letter, read it for yourself." The king took it, and seeing that an exchange had been made, asked his son-in-law what he had done with the letter which he had given him to carry. "I know nothing of it," answered he; "it must have been taken away in the night while I slept." Then the king was very wroth, and said, "No man shall have my daughter who does not descend into the wonderful cave and bring me three golden hairs from the head of the giant king who reigns there; do this and you shall have my consent." "I will soon manage that," said the youth;—so he took leave of his wife and set out on his journey.

At the first city that he came to, the guard of the gate stopped him, and asked what trade he followed, and what

he knew. "I know everything," said he. "If that be so," replied they, "you are just the man we want; be so good as to tell us why our fountain in the market-place is dry and will give no water; find out the cause of that, and we will give you two asses loaded with gold." "With all my heart," said he, "when I come back."

Then he journeyed on and came to another city, and there the guard also asked him what trade he followed, and what he understood. "I know everything," answered he. "Then pray do us a piece of service," said they, "tell us why a tree which used to bear us golden apples, now does not even produce a leaf." "Most willingly," answered he, "as I come back."

At last his way led him to the side of a great lake of water over which he must pass. The ferryman soon began to ask, as the others had done, what was his trade, and what he knew. "Everything," said he. "Then," said the other, "pray inform me why I am bound for ever to ferry over this water, and have never been able to get my liberty; I will reward you handsomely." "I will tell you all about it," said the young man, "as I come home."

When he had passed the water, he came to the wonderful cave, which looked terribly black and gloomy. But the wizard king was not at home, and his grandmother sat at the door in her easy chair. "What do you seek?" said she. "Three golden hairs from the giant's head," answered he. "You run a great risk," said she, "when he returns home; yet I will try what I can do for you." Then she changed him into an ant, and told him to hide himself in the folds of her cloak. "Very well," said he: "but I want also to know why the city fountain is dry, why the tree that bore golden apples is now leafless, and what it is that binds the ferryman to his post." "Those are three puzzling questions," said the old dame; "but

lie quiet and listen to what the giant says when I pull the golden hairs."

Presently night set in and the old gentleman returned home. As soon as he entered he began to snuff up the air, and cried, "All is not right here: I smell man's flesh." Then he searched all round in vain, and the old dame scolded, and said, "Why should you turn everything topsy-turvy? I have just set all in order." Upon this he laid his head in her lap and soon fell asleep. As soon as he began to snore, she seized one of the golden hairs and pulled it out. "Mercy!" cried he, starting up, "what are you about?" "I had a dream that disturbed me," said she, "and in my trouble I seized your hair: I dreamt that the fountain in the market-place of the city was become dry and would give no water; what can be the cause?" "Ah! if they could find that out, they would be glad," said the giant: "under a stone in the fountain sits a toad; when they kill him, it will flow again."

This said, he fell asleep, and the old lady pulled out another hair. "What would you be at?" cried he in a rage. "Don't be angry," said she, "I did it in my sleep; I dreamt that in a great kingdom there was a beautiful tree that used to bear golden apples, and now has not even a leaf upon it; what is the reason of that?" "Aha!" said the giant, "they would like very well to know that secret: at the root of the tree a mouse is gnawing; if they were to kill him, the tree would bear golden apples again; if not, it will soon die. Now let me sleep in peace; if you wake me again, you shall rue it."

Then he fell once more asleep; and when she heard him snore she pulled out the third golden hair, and the giant jumped up and threatened her sorely; but she soothed him, and said, "It was a strange dream: methought I saw a ferryman who was fated to ply back-

wards and forwards over a lake, and could never be set at liberty ; what is the charm that binds him ?" " A silly fool !" said the giant ; " if he were to give the rudder into the hand of any passenger, he would find himself at liberty, and the other would be obliged to take his place. Now let me sleep."

In the morning the giant arose and went out ; and the old woman gave the young man the three golden hairs, reminded him of the answers to his three questions, and sent him on his way.

He soon came to the ferryman, who knew him again, and asked for the answer which he had promised him. " Ferry me over first," said he, " and then I will tell you." When the boat arrived on the other side, he told him to give the rudder to any of his passengers, and then he might run away as soon as he pleased. The next place he came to was the city where the barren tree stood. " Kill the mouse," said he, " that gnaws the root, and you will have golden apples again." They gave him a rich present, and he journeyed on to the city where the fountain had dried up, and the guard demanded his answer to their question. So he told them how to cure the mischief, and they thanked him and gave him the two asses laden with gold.

And now at last this child of fortune reached home, and his wife rejoiced greatly to see him, and to hear how well everything had gone with him. He gave the three golden hairs to the king, who could no longer raise any objection to him, and when he saw all the treasure, cried out in a transport of joy, " Dear son, where did you find all this gold ?" " By the side of a lake," said the youth, " where there is plenty more to be had." " Pray, tell me," said the king, " that I may go and get some too." " As much as you please," replied the other ; " you will see the ferryman on the lake, let him carry you across,

and there you will see gold as plentiful as sand upon the shore."

Away went the greedy king ; and when he came to the lake, he beckoned to the ferryman, who took him into his boat, and as soon as he was there gave the rudder into his hand, and sprang ashore, leaving the old king to ferry away as a reward for his sins.

"And is his majesty plying there to this day ?" You may be sure of that, for nobody will trouble himself to take the rudder out of his hands.

XV

THE FROG-PRINCE

ONE fine evening a young princess went into a wood, and sat down by the side of a cool spring of water. She had a golden ball in her hand, which was her favourite plaything, and she amused herself with tossing it into the air and catching it again as it fell. After a time she threw it up so high that when she stretched out her hand to catch it, the ball bounded away and rolled along upon the ground, till at last it fell into the spring. The princess looked into the spring after her ball ; but it was very deep, so deep that she could not see the bottom of it. Then she began to lament her loss, and said, " Alas ! if I could only get my ball again, I would give all my fine clothes and jewels, and everything that I have in the world." Whilst she was speaking a frog put its head out of the water and said, " Princess, why do you weep so bitterly ?" " Alas !" said she, " what can you do for me, you nasty frog ? My golden ball has fallen into the spring." The frog said, " I want not your pearls and jewels and fine clothes ; but if you will love me and let me live with you, and eat from your little golden plate, and sleep upon your little bed, I will bring you your ball again." " What nonsense," thought the princess, " this silly frog is talking ! He can never get out of the well : however, he may be able to get my ball for me ; and therefore I will promise him what he asks "

So she said to the frog, "Well, if you will bring me my ball, I promise to do all you require." Then the frog put his head down, and dived deep under the water; and after a little while he came up again with the ball in his mouth, and threw it on the ground. As soon as the young princess saw her ball, she ran to pick it up, and was so overjoyed to have it in her hand again, that she never thought of the frog, but ran home with it as fast as she could. The frog called after her, "Stay, princess, and take me with you as you promised;" but she did not stop to hear a word.

The next day, just as the princess had sat down to dinner, she heard a strange noise, tap-tap, as if somebody was coming up the marble staircase; and soon afterwards something knocked gently at the door, and said,

"Open the door, my princess dear,
Open the door to thy true love here!
And mind the words that thou and I said
By the fountain cool in the greenwood shade."

Then the princess ran to the door and opened it, and there she saw the frog, whom she had quite forgotten; she was terribly frightened, and shutting the door as fast as she could, came back to her seat. The king her father asked her what had frightened her. "There is a nasty frog," said she, "at the door, who lifted my ball out of the spring this morning: I promised him that he should live with me here, thinking that he could never get out of the spring; but there he is at the door and wants to come in!" While she was speaking the frog knocked again at the door, and said,

"Open the door, my princess dear,
Open the door to thy true love here!
And mind the words that thou and I said
By the fountain cool in the greenwood shade"

The king said to the young princess, "As you have made a promise, you must keep it ; so go and let him in." She did so, and the frog hopped into the room, and came up close to the table. "Pray lift me upon a chair," said he to the princess, "and let me sit next to you." As soon as she had done this, the frog said, "Put your plate closer to me that I may eat out of it." This she did, and when he had eaten as much as he could, he said, "Now I am tired ; carry me upstairs and put me into your little bed." And the princess took him up in her hand and put him upon the pillow of her own little bed, where he slept all night long. As soon as it was light he jumped up, hopped downstairs, and went out of the house. "Now," thought the princess, "he is gone, and I shall be troubled with him no more."

But she was mistaken ; for when night came again, she heard the same tapping at the door, and when she opened it, the frog came in and slept upon her pillow as before till the morning broke : and the third night he did the same ; but when the princess awoke on the following morning, she was astonished to see, instead of the frog, a handsome prince gazing on her with the most beautiful eyes that ever were seen, and standing at the head of her bed.

He told her that he had been enchanted by a malicious fairy, who had changed him into the form of a frog, in which he was fated to remain till some princess should take him out of the spring and let him sleep upon her bed for three nights. "You," said the prince, "have broken this cruel charm, and now I have nothing to wish for but that you should go with me into my father's kingdom, where I will marry you, and love you as long as you live." -

The young princess, you may be sure, was not long in giving her consent ; and as they spoke a splendid carriage

drove up with eight beautiful horses decked with plumes of feathers and golden harness, and behind rode the prince's servant, the faithful Henry, who had bewailed the misfortune of his dear master so long and bitterly that his heart had wellnigh burst. Then all set out full of joy for the prince's kingdom ; where they arrived safely, and lived happily a great many years.

XVI

THE FOX AND THE HORSE

A FARMER had a horse that had been an excellent faithful servant to him : but he was now grown too old to work ; so the farmer would give him nothing more to eat, and said, " I want you no longer, so take yourself off out of my stable ; I shall not take you back again until you are stronger than a lion." Then he opened the door and turned him adrift.

The poor horse was very melancholy, and wandered up and down in the wood, seeking some little shelter from the cold wind and rain. Presently a fox met him : " What's the matter, my friend ?" said he, " why do you hang down your head and look so lonely and woe-begone ?" " Ah !" replied the horse, " justice and avarice never dwell in one house ; my master has forgotten all that I have done for him so many years, and because I can no longer work he has turned me adrift, and says unless I become stronger than a lion he will not take me back again ; what chance can I have of that ? he knows I have none, or he would not talk so."

However, the fox bid him be of good cheer, and said, " I will help you ; lie down there, stretch yourself out quite stiff, and pretend to be dead." The horse did as he was told, and the fox went straight to the lion who lived in a cave close by, and said to him, " A little way off lies a dead horse ; come with me and you may make an excellent meal of his carcass." The lion was greatly

pleased, and set off immediately ; and when they came to the horse, the fox said, " You will not be able to eat him comfortably here ; I'll tell you what—I will tie you fast to his tail, and then you can draw him to your den, and eat him at your leisure."

This advice pleased the lion, so he laid himself down quietly for the fox to make him fast to the horse. But the fox managed to tie his legs together and bound all so hard and fast that with all his strength he could not set himself free. When the work was done, the fox clapped the horse on the shoulder, and said, " Jip ! Dobbin ! Jip !" Then up he sprang, and moved off, dragging the lion behind him. The beast began to roar and bellow, till all the birds of the wood flew away for fright ; but the horse let him sing on, and made his way quietly over the fields to his master's house.

" Here he is, master," said he, " I have got the better of him :" and when the farmer saw his old servant, his heart relented, and he said, " Thou shalt stay in thy stable and be well taken care of." And so the poor old horse had plenty to eat, and lived—till he died.

XVII

RUMPEL-STILTS-KIN

IN a certain kingdom once lived a poor miller who had a very beautiful daughter. She was moreover exceedingly shrewd and clever ; and the miller was so vain and proud of her, that he one day told the king of the land that his daughter could spin gold out of straw. Now this king was very fond of money ; and when he heard the miller's boast, his avarice was excited, and he ordered the girl to be brought before him. Then he led her to a chamber where there was a great quantity of straw, gave her a spinning-wheel, and said, " All this must be spun into gold before morning, as you value your life." It was in vain that the poor maiden declared that she could do no such thing, the chamber was locked and she remained alone.

She sat down in one corner of the room and began to lament over her hard fate, when on a sudden the door opened, and a droll-looking little man hobbled in, and said, " Good-morrow to you, my good lass, what are you weeping for ?" " Alas !" answered she, " I must spin this straw into gold, and I know not how." " What will you give me," said the little man, " to do it for you ?" " My necklace," replied the maiden. He took her at her word, and set himself down to the wheel ; round about it went merrily, and presently the work was done and the gold all spun.

When the king came and saw this, he was greatly

astonished and pleased ; but his heart grew still more greedy of gain, and he shut up the poor miller's daughter again with a fresh task. Then she knew not what to do, and sat down once more to weep ; but the little man presently opened the door, and said, " What will you give me to do your task ?" " The ring on my finger," replied she. So her little friend took the ring, and began to work at the wheel, till by the morning all was finished again.

The king was vastly delighted to see all this glittering treasure ; but still he was not satisfied, and took the miller's daughter into a yet larger room, and said, " All this must be spun to-night ; and if you succeed, you shall be my queen." As soon as she was alone the dwarf came in, and said, " What will you give me to spin gold for you this third time ?" " I have nothing left," said she. " Then promise me," said the little man, " your first little child when you are queen." " That may never be," thought the miller's daughter ; and as she knew no other way to get her task done, she promised him what he asked, and he spun once more the whole heap of gold. The king came in the morning, and finding all he wanted, married her, and so the miller's daughter really became queen.

At the birth of her first little child the queen rejoiced very much, and forgot the little man and her promise ; but one day he came into her chamber and reminded her of it. Then she grieved sorely at her misfortune, and offered him all the treasures of the kingdom in exchange ; but in vain, till at last her tears softened him, and he said, " I will give you three days' grace, and if during that time you tell me my name, you shall keep your child "

Now the queen lay awake all night, thinking of all the odd names that she had ever heard, and dispatched messengers all over the land to inquire after new ones. The next day the little man came, and she began with Timothy, Benjamin, Jeremiah, and all the names she could

remember ; but to all of them he said, " That's not my name."

The second day she began with all the comical names she could hear of, Bandy-legs, Hunch-back, Crook-shanks, and so on, but the little gentleman still said to every one of them, " That's not my name."

The third day came back one of the messengers, and said, " I can hear of no one other name ; but yesterday, as I was climbing a high hill among the trees of the forest where the fox and the hare bid each other good-night, I saw a little hut, and before the hut burnt a fire, and round about the fire danced a funny little man upon one leg, and sung,

" Merrily the feast I'll make.
To-day I'll brew, to-morrow bake ;
Merrily I'll dance and sing,
For next day will a stranger bring :
Little does my lady dream
Rumpel-Stilts-Kin is my name !"

When the queen heard this, she jumped for joy, and as soon as her little visitor came, and said, " Now, lady, what is my name ?" " Is it John ?" asked she. " No !" " Is it Tom ?" " No !"

" Can your name be Rumpel-Stilts-Kin ?"

" Some witch told you that ! Some witch told you that !" cried the little man, and dashed his right foot in a rage so deep into the floor, that he was forced to lay hold of it with both hands to pull it out. Then he made the best of his way off, while everybody laughed at him for having had all his trouble for nothing.

XVIII

FAITHFUL JOHN

AN old king fell sick ; and when he found his end drawing near, he said, " Let Faithful John come to me." Now Faithful John was the servant that he was fondest of, and was so called because he had been true to his master all his life long. Then when he came to the bed-side, the king said, " My faithful John, I feel that my end draws nigh, and I have now no cares save for my son, who is still young, and stands in need of good counsel. I have no friend to leave him but you ; if you do not pledge yourself to teach him all he should know, and to be a father to him, I shall not shut my eyes in peace." Then John said, " I will never leave him, but will serve him faithfully, even though it should cost me my life." And the king said, " I shall now die in peace : after my death, show him the whole palace ; all the rooms and vaults, and all the treasures and stores which lie there : but take care how you show him one room,—I mean the one where hangs the picture of the daughter of the king of the golden roof. If he sees it, he will fall deeply in love with her, and will then be plunged into great dangers, on her account : guard him in this peril." And when Faithful John had once more pledged his word to the old king, he laid his head on his pillow, and died in peace.

Now when the old king had been carried to his grave, Faithful John told the young king what had passed upon his death-bed, and said. " I will keep my word truly. and

be faithful to you as I was always to your father, though it should cost me my life." And the young king wept, and said, "Neither will I ever forget your faithfulness."

The days of mourning passed away, and then Faithful John said to his master, "It is now time that you should see your heritage; I will show you your father's palace." Then he led him about everywhere, up and down, and let him see all the riches and all the costly rooms; only one room, where the picture stood, he did not open. Now the picture was so planned, that the moment the door opened, you could see it; and it was so beautifully done, that one would think it breathed and had life, and that there was nothing more lovely in the whole world. When the young king saw that Faithful John always went by this door, he said, "Why do you not open that room?" "There is something inside," he answered, "which would frighten you." But the king said, "I have seen the whole palace, and I must also know what is in there;" and he went and began to force open the door: but Faithful John held him back, and said, "I gave my word to your father before his death, that I would take heed how I showed you what stands in that room, lest it should lead you and me into great trouble." "The greatest trouble to me," said the young king, "will be not to go in and see the room; I shall have no peace by day or by night until I do; so I shall not go hence until you open it."

Then Faithful John saw that with all he could do or say the young king would have his way; so, with a heavy heart and many foreboding sighs, he sought for the key out of his great bunch; and he opened the door of the room, and entered in first, so as to stand between the king and the picture, hoping he might not see it; but he raised himself upon tiptoes, and looked over John's shoulders; and as soon as he saw the likeness of the lady, so beautiful and shining with gold, he fell down upon the floor sense-

less. Then Faithful John lifted him up in his arms, and carried him to his bed, and was full of care, and thought to himself, "This trouble has come upon us ; O Heaven ! what will come of it ?"

At last the king came to himself again ; but the first thing that he said was, " Whose is that beautiful picture ? " " It is the picture of the daughter of the king of the golden roof," said Faithful John. But the king went on, saying, " My love towards her is so great, that if all the leaves on the trees were tongues, they could not speak it ; I care not to risk my life to win her ; you are my faithful friend, you must aid me."

Then John thought for a long time what was now to be done ; and at length said to the king, " All that she has about her is of gold : the tables, stools, cups, dishes, and all the things in her house are of gold ; and she is always seeking new treasures. Now in your stores there is much gold ; let it be worked up into every kind of vessel, and into all sorts of birds, wild beasts, and wonderful animals ; then we will take it and try our fortune." So the king ordered all the goldsmiths to be sought for ; and they worked day and night, until at last the most beautiful things were made : and Faithful John had a ship loaded with them, and put on a merchant's dress, and the king did the same, that they might not be known.

When all was ready they put out to sea, and sailed till they came to the coast of the land where the king of the golden roof reigned. Faithful John told the king to stay in the ship, and wait for him ; " for perhaps," said he, " I may be able to bring away the king's daughter with me : therefore take care that everything be in order ; let the golden vessels and ornaments be brought forth, and the whole ship be decked out with them." And he chose out something of each of the golden things to put into his basket, and got ashore, and went towards the king's

palace. And when he came to the castle yard, there stood by the well side a beautiful maiden, who had two golden pails in her hand, drawing water. And as she drew up the water, which was glittering with gold, she turned herself round, and saw the stranger, and asked him who he was. Then he drew near, and said, "I am a merchant," and opened his basket, and let her look into it; and she cried out, "Oh! what beautiful things!" and set down her pails, and looked at one after the other. Then she said, "The king's daughter must see all these; she is so fond of such things, that she will buy all of you." So she took him by the hand, and led him in; for she was one of the waiting-maids of the daughter of the king.

When the princess saw the wares, she was greatly pleased, and said, "They are so beautiful that I will buy them all." But Faithful John said, "I am only the servant of a rich merchant; what I have here is nothing to what he has lying in yonder ship: there he has the finest and most costly things that ever were made in gold." The princess wanted to have them all brought ashore; but he said, "That would take up many days, there are such a number; and more rooms would be wanted to place them in than there are in the greatest house." But her wish to see them grew still greater, and at last she said, "Take me to the ship, I will go myself, and look at your master's wares."

Then Faithful John led her joyfully to the ship, and the king, when he saw her, thought that his heart would leap out of his breast; and it was with the greatest trouble that he kept himself still. So she got into the ship, and the king led her down; but Faithful John stayed behind with the steersman, and ordered the ship to put off: "Spread all your sail," cried he, "that she may fly over the waves like a bird through the air."

And the king showed the princess the golden wares, each

one singly ; the dishes, cups, basons, and the wild and wonderful beasts ; so that many hours flew away, and she looked at everything with delight, and was not aware that the ship was sailing away. And after she had looked at the last, she thanked the merchant, and said she would go home ; but when she came upon the deck, she saw that the ship was sailing far away from land upon the deep sea, and that it flew along at full sail. " Alas !" she cried out in her fright, " I am betrayed ; I am carried off, and have fallen into the power of a roving trader ; I would sooner have died." But then the king took her by the hand, and said, " I am not a merchant, I am a king, and of as noble birth as you. I have taken you away by stealth, but I did so because of the very great love I have for you ; for the first time that I saw your face, I fell on the ground in a swoon." When the daughter of the king of the golden roof heard all, she was comforted, and her heart soon turned towards him, and she was willing to become his wife.

But it so happened, that whilst they were sailing on the deep sea, Faithful John, as he sat on the prow of the ship playing on his flute, saw three ravens flying in the air towards him. Then he left off playing, and listened to what they said to each other, for he understood their tongue. The first said, " There he goes ! he is bearing away the daughter of the king of the golden roof ; let him go !" " Nay," said the second, " there he goes, but he has not got her yet." And the third said, " There he goes ; he surely has her, for she is sitting by his side in the ship." Then the first began again, and cried out, " What boots it to him ? See you not that when they come to land, a horse of a foxy-red colour will spring towards him ; and then he will try to get upon it, and if he does, it will spring away with him into the air, so that he will never see his love again." " True ! true !" said the second, " but is

there no help ?" " Oh ! yes, yes !" said the first ; " if he who sits upon the horse takes the dagger which is stuck in the saddle and strikes him dead, the young king is saved : but who knows that ? and who will tell him, that he who thus saves the king's life will turn to stone from the toes of his feet to his knee ?" Then the second said, " True ! true ! but I know more still ; though the horse be dead, the king loses his bride : when they go together into the palace, there lies the bridal dress on the couch, and looks as if it were woven of gold and silver, but it is all brimstone and pitch ; and if he puts it on, it will burn him, marrow and bones." " Alas ! alas ! is there no help ?" said the third. " Oh ! yes, yes !" said the second, " if someone draws near and throws it into the fire, the young king will be saved. But what boots that ? who knows, and will tell him that, if he does, his body from the knee to the heart will be turned to stone ?" " More ! more ! I know more," said the third : " were the dress burnt, still the king loses his bride. After the wedding, when the dance begins, and the young queen dances on, she will turn pale, and fall as though she were dead ; and if someone does not draw near and lift her up, and take from her right breast three drops of blood, she will surely die. But if anyone knew this, he would tell him, that if he does do so, his body will turn to stone, from the crown of his head to the tip of his toe."

Then the ravens flapped their wings, and flew on ; but Faithful Jphn, who had understood it all, from that time was sorrowful, and did not tell his master what he had heard ; for he saw that if he told him, he must himself lay down his life to save him : at last he said to himself, " I will be faithful to my word, and save my master, if it costs me my life."

Now when they came to land, it happened just as the ravens had foretold ; for there sprung out a fine foxy-red

horse. "See," said the king, "he shall bear me to my palace : " and he tried to mount, but Faithful John leaped before him, and swung himself quickly upon it, drew the dagger, and smote the horse dead. Then the other servants of the king, who were jealous of Faithful John, cried out, "What a shame to kill the fine beast that was to take the king to his palace ! " But the king said, "Let him alone, it is my Faithful John ; who knows but he did it for some good end ? "

Then they went on to the castle, and there stood a couch in one room, and a fine dress lay upon it, that shone with gold and silver ; and the young king went up to it to take hold of it, but Faithful John cast it on the fire, and burnt it. And the other servants began again to grumble, and said, "See, now he is burning the wedding dress " But the king said, "Who knows what he does it for ? let him alone ! he is my faithful servant John."

Then the wedding feast was held, and the dance began, and the bride also came in ; but Faithful John took good heed, and looked in her face ; and on a sudden she turned pale, and fell as though she were dead upon the ground. But he sprang towards her quickly, lifted her up, and took her and laid her upon a couch, and drew three drops of blood from her right breast. And she breathed again, and came to herself. But the young king had seen all, and did not know why Faithful John had done it ; so he was angry at his boldness, and said, "Throw him into prison."

The next morning Faithful John was led forth, and stood upon the gallows, and said, "May I speak out before I die ? " and when the king answered "It shall be granted thee," he said, "I am wrongly judged, for I have always been faithful and true : " and then he told what he had heard the ravens say upon the sea, and how he meant to save his master, and had therefore done all these things.

When he had told all, the king called out, "O my most faithful John ! pardon ! pardon ! take him down !" But Faithful John had fallen down lifeless at the last word he spoke, and lay as a stone : and the king and the queen mourned over him ; and the king said, "Oh, how ill have I rewarded thy truth !" And he ordered the stone figure to be taken up, and placed in his own room near to his bed ; and as often as he looked at it he wept, and said, "O that I could bring thee back to life again, my Faithful John !"

After a time, the queen had two little sons, who grew up, and were her great joy. One day, when she was at church, the two children stayed with their father ; and as they played about, he looked at the stone figure, and sighed, and cried out, "O that I could bring thee back to life, my Faithful John !" Then the stone began to speak, and said, "O king ! thou canst bring me back to life if thou wilt give up for my sake what is dearest to thee." But the king said, "All that I have in the world would I give up for thee." "Then," said the stone, "cut off the heads of thy children, sprinkle their blood over me, and I shall live again." Then the king was greatly shocked : but he thought how Faithful John had died for his sake, and because of his great truth towards him ; and rose up and drew his sword to cut off his children's heads and sprinkle the stone with their blood ; but the moment he drew his sword Faithful John was alive again, and stood before his face, and said, "Your truth is rewarded." And the children sprang about and played as if nothing had happened.

Then the king was full of joy : and when he saw the queen coming, to try her, he put Faithful John and the two children in a large closet ; and when she came in he said to her, "Have you been at church ?" "Yes," said she, "but I could not help thinking of Faithful John, who was so true to us." "Dear wife," said the king, "we can bring him back to life again, but it will cost us both our

little sons, and we must give them up for his sake." When the queen heard this, she turned pale and was frightened in her heart ; but she said, " Let it be so ; we owe him all, for his great faith and truth." Then he rejoiced because she thought as he had thought, and went in and opened the closet, and brought out the children and Faithful John, and said, " Heaven be praised ! he is ours again, and we have our sons safe too." So he told her the whole story ; and all lived happily together the rest of their lives

XIX

THE BLUE LIGHT

A SOLDIER had served a king his master many years, till at last he was turned off without pay or reward. How he should get his living he did not know : so he set out and journeyed homeward all day in a very downcast mood, until in the evening he came to the edge of a deep wood. The road leading that way, he pushed forward, but he had not gone far before he saw a light glimmering through the trees, towards which he bent his weary steps ; and soon came to a hut where no one lived but an old witch. The poor fellow begged for a night's lodging and something to eat and drink ; but she would listen to nothing : however, he was not easily got rid of ; and at last she said, " I think I will take pity on you this once : but if I do you must dig over all my garden for me in the morning." The soldier agreed very willingly to anything she asked, and he became her guest.

The next day he kept his word and dug the garden very neatly. The job lasted all day ; and in the evening, when his mistress would have sent him away, he said, " I am so tired of my work that I must beg you to let me stay over the night." The old lady vowed at first she would not do any such thing ; but after a great deal of talk he carried his point, agreeing to chop up a whole cart-load of wood for her the next day.

This task too was duly ended ; but not till towards night ; and then he found himself so tired, that he begged

a third night's rest : and this too was given, but only on his pledging his word that he next day would fetch the witch the blue light that burnt at the bottom of the well.

When morning came she led him to the well's mouth, tied him to a long rope, and let him down. At the bottom sure enough he found the blue light as the witch had said, and at once made the signal for her to draw him up again. But when she had pulled him up so near to the top that she could reach him with her hands, she said, " Give me the light, I will take care of it,"—meaning to play him a trick, by taking it for herself and letting him fall again to the bottom of the well. But the soldier saw through her wicked thoughts, and said, " No, I shall not give you the light till I find myself safe and sound out of the well." At this she became very angry, and dashed him, with the light she had longed for many a year, down to the bottom. And there lay the poor soldier for a while in despair, on the damp mud below, and feared that his end was nigh. But his pipe happened to be in his pocket still half full, and he thought to himself, " I may as well make an end of smoking you out ; it is the last pleasure I shall have in this world." So he lit it at the blue light, and began to smoke.

Up rose a cloud of smoke, and on a sudden a little black dwarf was seen making his way through the midst of it. " What do you want with me, soldier ?" said he. " I have no business with you," answered he. But the dwarf said, " I am bound to serve you in everything' as lord and master of the blue light." " Then first of all be so good as to help me out of this well." No sooner said than done : the dwarf took him by the hand and drew him up, and the blue light of course with him. " Now do me another piece of kindness," said the soldier : " Pray let that old lady take my place in the well. When the dwarf had done this, and lodged the witch safely at the bottom, they

began to ransack her treasures ; and the soldier made bold to carry off as much of her gold and silver as he well could. Then the dwarf said, " If you should chance at any time to want me, you have nothing to do but to light your pipe at the blue light, and I will soon be with you."

The soldier was not a little pleased at his good luck, and went into the best inn in the first town he came to, and ordered some fine clothes to be made and a handsome room to be got ready for him. When all was ready, he called his little man to him, and said, " The king sent me away penniless, and left me to hunger and want : I have a mind to show him that it is my turn to be master now ; so bring me his daughter here this evening, that she may wait upon me, and do what I bid her." " That is rather a dangerous task," said the dwarf. But away he went, took the princess out of her bed, fast asleep as she was, and brought her to the soldier.

Very early in the morning he carried her back : and as soon as she saw her father, she said, " I had a strange dream last night : I thought I was carried away through the air to a soldier's house, and there I waited upon him as his servant." Then the king wondered greatly at such a story ; but told her to make a hole in her pocket and fill it with peas, so that if it were really as she said, and the whole was not a dream, the peas might fall out in the streets as she passed through, and leave a clue to tell whither she had been taken. She did so ; but the dwarf had heard the king's plot ; and when evening came, and the soldier said he must bring him the princess again, he strewed peas over several of the streets, so that the few that fell from her pocket were not known from the others ; and the people amused themselves all the next day picking up peas, and wondering where so many came from.

When the princess told her father what had happened to her the second time, he said, " Take one of your shoes

with you, and hide it in the room you are taken to." The dwarf heard this also ; and when the soldier told him to bring the king's daughter again he said, " I cannot save you this time ; it will be an unlucky thing for you if you are found out—as I think you will be." But the soldier would have his own way. " Then you must take care and make the best of your way out of the city gate very early in the morning," said the dwarf. The princess kept one shoe on as her father bid her, and hid it in the soldier's room : and when she got back to her father, he ordered it to be sought for all over the town ; and at last it was found where she had hid it. The soldier had run away, it is true ! but he had been too slow, and was soon caught and thrown into a strong prison, and loaded with chains :—what was worse, in the hurry of his flight, he had left behind him his great treasure the blue light and all his gold, and had nothing left in his pocket but one poor ducat.

As he was standing very sorrowful at the prison grating, he saw one of his comrades, and calling out to him said, " If you will bring me a little bundle I left in the inn, I will give you a ducat." His comrade thought this very good pay for such a job : so he went away, and soon came back bringing the blue light and the gold. Then the soldier soon lit his pipe : up rose the smoke, and with it came his old friend the little dwarf. " Do not fear, master," said he : " keep up your heart at your trial and leave everything to take its course ;—only mind to take the blue light with you." The trial soon came on ; the matter was sifted to the bottom ; the prisoner found guilty, and his doom passed : he was ordered to be hung forthwith on the gallows-tree.

But as he was let out, he said he had one favour to beg of the king. " What is it ?" said his majesty. " That you will deign to let me smoke one pipe on the road." " Two, if you like," said the king. Then he lit his pipe

at the blue light, and the black dwarf was before him in a moment. "Be so good as to kill, slay, or put to flight all these people," said the soldier : "and as for the king, you may cut him into three pieces." Then the dwarf began to lay about him, and soon got rid of the crowd around : but the king begged hard for mercy ; and to save his life, agreed to let the soldier have the princess for his wife, and to leave the kingdom to him when he died.

XX

CINDERELLA

THE wife of a rich man fell sick : and when she felt that her end drew nigh, she called her only daughter to her bed-side, and said, “ Always be a good girl, and I will look down from heaven and watch over you.” Soon afterwards she shut her eyes and died, and was buried in the garden ; and the little girl went every day to her grave and wept, and was always good and kind to all about her. And the snow spread a beautiful white covering over the grave ; but by the time the sun had melted it away again, her father had married another wife. This new wife had two daughters of her own, that she brought home with her : they were fair in face but foul at heart, and it was now a sorry time for the poor little girl. “ What does the good-for-nothing thing want in the parlour ?” said they ; “ they who would eat bread should first earn it ; away with the kitchen maid !” Then they took away her fine clothes, and gave her an old gray frock to put on, and laughed at her and turned her into the kitchen.

There she was forced to do hard work ; to rise early before daylight, to bring the water, to make the fire, to cook and to wash. Besides that, the sisters plagued her in all sorts of ways and laughed at her. In the evening when she was tired she had no bed to lie down on, but was made to lie by the hearth among the ashes ; and then, as she was of course always dusty and dirty, they called her Cinderella.

It happened once that the father was going to the fair, and asked his wife's daughters what he should bring them. "Fine clothes," said the first: "Pearls and diamonds," cried the second. "Now, child," said he to his own daughter, "what will you have?" "The first sprig, dear father, that rubs against your hat on your way home," said she. Then he bought for the two first the fine clothes and pearls and diamonds they had asked for: and on his way home as he rode through a green copse, a sprig of hazel brushed against him, and almost pushed off his hat: so he broke it off and brought it away; and when he got home he gave it to his daughter. Then she took it and went to her mother's grave and planted it there, and cried so much that it was watered with her tears; and there it grew and became a fine tree. Three times every day she went to it and wept; and soon a little bird came and built its nest upon the tree and talked with her, and watched over her, and brought her whatever she wished for.

Now it happened that the king of the land held a feast which was to last three days, and out of those who came to it his son was to choose a bride for himself: and Cinderella's two sisters were asked to come. So they called her up, and said, "Now, comb our hair, brush our shoes, and tie our sashes for us, for we are going to dance at the king's feast." Then she did as she was told, but when all was done she could not help crying, for she thought to herself, she should have liked to go to the dance too; and at last she begged her mother very hard to let her go. "You! Cinderella?" said she; "you who have nothing to wear, no clothes at all, and who cannot even dance—you want to go to the ball?" And when she kept on begging,—to get rid of her, she said at last, "I will throw this bason-full of peas into the ash-heap, and if you have picked them all out in two hours' time you



CINDERELLA

The sisters called her up and said "Now comb our hair, brush our shoes, and tie our sashes for us, for we are going to dance at the King's fest."

shall go to the feast too." Then she threw the peas into the ashes · but the little maiden ran out at the back door into the garden, and cried out :

" Hither, hither, through the sky,
Turtle doves and linnets fly !
Blackbird, thrush, and chaffinch gay,
Hither, hither, haste away !
One and all, come help me quick,
Haste ye, haste ye,—pick, pick, pick !"

Then first came two white doves flying in at the kitchen window ; and next came two turtle-doves ; and after them all the little birds under heaven came chirping and fluttering in, and flew down into the ashes ; and the little doves stooped their heads down and set to work, pick, pick, pick ; and then the others began to pick, pick, pick ; and picked out all the good grain and put it in a dish, and left the ashes. At the end of one hour the work was done, and all flew out again at the windows. Then she brought the dish to her mother, overjoyed at the thought that now she should go to the wedding. But she said, " No, no ! you slut, you have no clothes, and cannot dance, you shall not go." And when Cinderella begged very hard to go, she said, " If you can in one hour's time pick two of those dishes of peas out of the ashes, you shall go too." And thus she thought she should at last get rid of her. So she shook two dishes of peas into the ashes ; but the little maiden went out into the garden at the back of the house, and cried out as before :

" Hither, hither, through the sky.
Turtle doves and linnets fly !
Blackbird, thrush, and chaffinch gay,
Hither, hither, haste away !
One and all, come help me quick,
Haste ye, haste ye,—pick, pick, pick !"

Then first came two white doves in at the kitchen window ; and next came the turtle-doves ; and after them all the little birds under heaven came chirping and hopping about, and flew down about the ashes : and the little doves put their heads down and set to work, pick, pick, pick ; and then the others began pick, pick, pick ; and they put all the good grain into the dishes, and left all the ashes. Before half an hour's time all was done, and out they flew again. And then Cinderella took the dishes to her mother, rejoicing to think that she should now go to the ball. But her mother said, " It is all of no use, you cannot go ; you have no clothes, and cannot dance, and you would only put us to shame : " and off she went with her two daughters to the feast.

Now when all were gone, and nobody left at home, Cinderella went sorrowfully and sat down under the hazel-tree, and cried out :

" Shake, shake, hazel tree,
Gold and silver over me ! "

Then her friend the bird flew out of the tree and brought a gold and silver dress for her, and slippers of spangled silk : and she put them on, and followed her sisters to the feast. But they did not know her, and thought it must be some strange princess, she looked so fine and beautiful in her rich clothes : and they never once thought of Cinderella, but took for granted that she was safe at home in the dirt.

The king's son soon came up to her, and took her by the hand and danced with her and no one else : and he never left her hand ; but when anyone else came to ask her to dance, he said, " This lady is dancing with me. " Thus they danced till a late hour of the night ; and then she wanted to go home : and the king's son said, " I shall go and take care of you to your home ; " for he wanted to

see where the beautiful maid lived. But she slipped away from him unawares, and ran off towards home, and the prince followed her ; but she jumped up into the pigeon-house and shut the door. Then he waited till her father came home, and told him that the unknown maiden who had been at the feast had hid herself in the pigeon-house. But when they had broken open the door they found no one within ; and as they came back into the house, Cinderella lay, as she always did, in her dirty frock by the ashes, and her dim little lamp burnt in the chimney : for she had run as quickly as she could through the pigeon-house and on to the hazel-tree, and had there taken off her beautiful clothes, and laid them beneath the tree, that the bird might carry them away, and had seated herself amid the ashes again in her little gray frock.

The next day when the feast was again held, and her father, mother, and sisters were gone, Cinderella went to the hazel-tree, and said :

“ Shake, shake, hazel-tree,
Gold and silver over me !”

And the bird came and brought a still finer dress than the one she had worn the day before. And when she came in it to the ball, every one wondered at her beauty : but the king’s son, who was waiting for her, took her by the hand, and danced with her ; and when any one asked her to dance, he said as before, “ This lady is dancing with me.” When night came she wanted to go home ; and the king’s son followed her as before, that he might see into what house she went : but she sprung away from him all at once into the garden behind her father’s house. In this garden stood a fine large pear-tree full of ripe fruit ; and Cinderella not knowing where to hide herself jumped up into it without being seen. Then the king’s son could not find out where she was gone, but waited till her father

came home, and said to him, "The unknown lady who danced with me has slept away, and I think she must have sprung into the pear-tree." The father thought to himself, "Can it be Cinderella?" So he ordered an axe to be brought; and they cut down the tree, but found no one upon it. And when they came back into the kitchen, there lay Cinderella in the ashes as usual; for she had slipped down on the other side of the tree, and carried her beautiful clothes back to the bird at the hazel-tree, and then put on her little gray frock.

The third day, when her father and mother and sisters were gone, she went again into the garden, and said:

"Shake, shake, hazel-tree,
Gold and silver over me!"

Then her kind friend the bird brought a dress still finer than the former one, and slippers which were all of gold: so that when she came to the feast no one knew what to say for wonder at her beauty: and the king's son danced with her alone; and when anyone else asked her to dance, he said, "This lady is my partner." Now when night came she wanted to go home; and the king's son would go with her, and said to himself, "I will not lose her this time;" but, however, she managed to slip away from him, though in such a hurry that she dropped her left golden slipper upon the stairs.

So the prince took the shoe, and went the next day to the king his father, and said, "I will take for my wife the lady that this golden slipper fits." Then both the sisters were overjoyed to hear this; for they had beautiful feet, and had no doubt that they could wear the golden slipper. The eldest went first into the room where the slipper was and wanted to try it on, and the mother stood by. But her great toe could not go into it, and the shoe was altogether much too small for her. Then the mother gave her

a knife, and said, "Never mind, cut it off; when you are queen you will not care about toes, you will not want to go on foot." So the silly girl cut her great toe off, and squeezed the shoe on, and went to the king's son. Then he took her for his bride, and set her beside him on his horse and rode away with her.

But on their way home they had to pass by the hazel-tree that Cinderella had planted, and there sat a little dove on the branch singing:

"Back again! back again! look to the shoe!
The shoe is too small, and not made for you!
Prince! prince! look again for thy bride,
For she's not the true one that sits by thy side."

Then the prince got down and looked at her foot, and saw by the blood that streamed from it what a trick she had played him. So he turned his horse round and brought the false bride back to her home, and said, "This is not the right bride - let the other sister try and put on the slipper." Then she went into the room and got her foot into the shoe, all but the heel, which was too large. But her mother squeezed it in till the blood came, and took her to the king's son; and he set her as his bride by his side on his horse, and rode away with her.

But when they came to the hazel-tree the little dove sate there still, and sang:

"Back again! back again! look to the shoe!
The shoe is too small, and not made for you!
Prince! prince! look again for thy bride,
For she's not the true one that sits by thy side."

Then he looked down and saw that the blood streamed so from the shoe that her white stockings were quite red. So he turned his horse and brought her back again also. "This is not the true bride," said he to the father; "have

you no other daughters ?” “ No,” said he ; “ there is only a little dirty Cinderella here, the child of my first wife ; I am sure she cannot be the bride.” However, the prince told him to send her. But the mother said, “ No, no, she is much too dirty, she will not dare to show herself :” however, the prince would have her come. And she first washed her face and hands, and then went in and curtsied to him, and he reached her the golden slipper. Then she took her clumsy shoe off her left foot, and put on the golden slipper ; and it fitted her as if it had been made for her. And when he drew near and looked at her face he knew her, and said, “ This is the right bride.” But the mother and both the sisters were frightened and turned pale with anger as he took Cinderella on his horse, and rode away with her. And when they came to the hazel-tree, the white dove sang :

“ Home ! home ! look at the shoe !
Princess ! the shoe was made for you !
Prince ! prince ! take home thy bride,
For she is the true one that sits by thy side !”

And when the dove had done its song, it came flying and perched upon her right shoulder, and so went home with her.

XXI

THE CROWS AND THE SOLDIER

A WORTHY soldier had saved a good deal of money out of his pay ; for he worked hard, and did not spend all he earned in eating and drinking, as many others do. Now he had two comrades who were great rogues, and wanted to rob him of his money, but behaved outwardly towards him in a friendly way. "Comrade," said they to him one day, "why should we stay here shut up in this town like prisoners, when you at any rate have earned enough to live upon for the rest of your days in peace and plenty at home by your own fireside?" They talked so often to him in this manner, that he at last said he would go and try his luck with them ; but they all the time thought of nothing but how they should manage to steal his money from him.

When they had gone a little way, the two rogues said, "We must go by the right-hand road, for that will take us quickest into another country where we shall be safe." Now they knew all the while that what they were saying was untrue ; and as soon as the soldier said, "No, that will take us straight back into the town we came from ; we must keep on the left hand ;" they picked a quarrel with him, and said, "What do you give yourself airs for ? you know nothing about it : " and they then fell upon him and knocked him down, and beat him over the head till he was blind. Then they took all the money out of his pockets and dragged him to a gallows-tree that stood hard

by, bound him fast down at the foot of it, and went back into the town with the money ; but the poor blind man did not know where he was ; and he felt all around him, and finding that he was bound to a large beam of wood, thought it was a cross, and said, " After all, they have done kindly in leaving me under a cross ; now Heaven will guard me ;" so he raised himself up and began to pray

When night came on, he heard something fluttering over his head. It turned out to be three crows, who flew round and round, and at last perched upon the tree. By-and-by they began to talk together, and he heard one of them say, " Sister, what is the best news with you to-day ?" " O, if men knew what we know !" said the other ; " the princess is ill, and the king has vowed to marry her to anyone who will cure her ; but this none can do, for she will not be well until yonder flower is burnt to ashes and swallowed by her." " Oh, indeed," said the other crow, " if men did but know what we know ! to-night will fall from heaven a dew of such healing power, that even the blind man who washes his eyes with it will see again ;" and the third spoke, and said, " O if men knew what we know ! the flower is wanted but for one, the dew is wanted but for few ; for there is a great dearth of water in the town ; all the wells are dried up ; and no one knows that they must take away the large square stone out of the market-place, and dig underneath it, and that then the finest water will spring up."

When the three crows had done talking, he heard them fluttering round again, and at last away they flew. Greatly wondering at what he had heard, and overjoyed at the thoughts of getting his sight, he tried with all his strength to break loose from his bonds ; at last he found himself free, and plucked some of the grass that grew beneath him and washed his eyes with the dew that had fallen upon it. At once his eye-sight came to him again, and he saw by the

light of the moon and the stars that he was beneath the gallows-tree, and not the cross, as he had thought. Then he gathered together in a bottle as much of the dew as he could to take away with him, and looked around till he saw the flower that grew close by ; and when he had burned it he gathered up the ashes, and set out on his way towards the king's court.

When he reached the palace, he told the king he was come to cure the princess ; and when she had taken of the ashes and been made well, he claimed her for his wife, as the reward that was to be given ; but the king looking upon him and seeing that his clothes were so shabby, would not keep his word, and thought to get rid of him by saying, " Whoever wants to have the princess for his wife, must find enough water for the use of the town, where there is this summer a great dearth." Then the soldier went out and told the people to take up the square stone in the market-place and dig for water underneath ; and when they had done so there came up a fine spring, that gave enough water for the whole town. So the king could no longer get off giving him his daughter, and they were married and lived happily together.

Some time after, as he was walking one day through a field, he met his two wicked comrades who had treated him so basely. Though they did not know him, he knew them at once, and went up to them and said, " Look upon me, I am your old comrade whom you beat and robbed and left blind ; Heaven has defeated your wicked wishes, and turned all the mischief which you brought upon me into good luck." When they heard this they fell at his feet and begged for pardon, and he had a kind and good heart, so he forgave them, and took them to his palace, and gave them food and clothes. And he told them all that had happened to him, and how he had reached these honours. After they had heard the whole story they said

to themselves, "Why should not we go and sit some night under the gallows? we may hear something that will bring us good luck too."

Next night they stole away; and, when they had sat under the tree a little while, they heard a fluttering noise over their heads; and the three crows came and perched upon it. "Sisters," said one of them, "some one must have overheard us, for all the world is talking of the wonderful things that have happened: the princess is well; the flower has been plucked and burnt; a blind man's sight has been given to him again, and they have dug a fresh well that gives water to the whole town: let us look about, perhaps we may find some one near; if we do he shall rue the day." Then they began to flutter about, and soon found out the two men below, and flew at them in a rage, beating and pecking them in the face with their wings and beaks till they were quite blind, and lay nearly dead upon the ground under the gallows. The next day passed over and they did not return to the palace; and their old comrade began to wonder where they had been, and went out the following morning in search of them, and at last found them where they lay, dreadfully repaid for all their folly and baseness.

XXII

CHERRY, OR THE FROG-BRIDE

THERE was once a king who had three sons. Not far from his kingdom lived an old woman who had an only daughter called Cherry. The king sent his sons out to see the world, that they might learn the ways of foreign lands, and get wisdom and skill in ruling the kingdom that they were one day to have for their own. But the old woman lived at peace at home with her daughter, who was called Cherry, because she liked cherries better than any other kind of food, and would eat scarcely anything else. Now her poor old mother had no garden, and no money to buy cherries every day for her daughter ; and at last there was no other plan left but to go to a neighbouring nunnery-garden and beg the finest she could get of the nuns ; for she dared not let her daughter go out by herself, as she was very pretty, and she feared some mischance might befall her. Cherry's taste was, however, very well known ; and as it happened that the abbess was as fond of cherries as she was, it was soon found out where all the best fruit went ; and the holy mother was not a little angry at missing some of her stock and finding whither it had gone.

The princes while wandering on came one day to the town where Cherry and her mother lived ; and as they passed along the street saw the fair maiden standing at the window, combing her long and beautiful locks of hair. Then each of the three fell deeply in love with her, and

began to say how much he longed to have her for his wife ! Scarcely had the wish been spoken, when all drew their swords, and a dreadful battle began ; the fight lasted long, and their rage grew hotter and hotter, when at last the abbess hearing the uproar came to the gate. Finding that her neighbour was the cause, her old spite against her broke forth at once, and in her rage she wished Cherry turned into an ugly frog, and sitting in the water under the bridge at the world's end. No sooner said than done ; and poor Cherry became a frog, and vanished out of their sight. The princes had now nothing to fight for ; so sheathing their swords again, they shook hands as brothers, and went on towards their father's home.

The old king meanwhile found that he grew weak and ill fitted for the business of reigning : so he thought of giving up his kingdom ; but to whom should it be ? This was a point that his fatherly heart could not settle ; for he loved all his sons alike. " My dear children," said he, " I grow old and weak, and should like to give up my kingdom ; but I cannot make up my mind which of you to choose for my heir, for I love you all three ; and besides, I should wish to give my people the cleverest and best of you for their king. However, I will give you three trials, and the one who wins the prize shall have the kingdom. The first is to seek me out one hundred ells of cloth, so fine that I can draw it through my golden ring." The sons said they would do their best, and set out on the search.

The two eldest brothers took with them many followers, and coaches and horses of all sorts, to bring home all the beautiful cloths which they could find ; but the youngest went alone by himself. They soon came to where the roads branched off into several ways ; two ran through smiling meadows, with smooth paths and shady groves, but the third looked dreary and dirty, and went over barren wastes. The two eldest chose the pleasant ways ;

and the youngest took his leave and whistled along over the dreary road. Whenever fine linen was to be seen, the two elder brothers bought it, and bought so much that their coaches and horses bent under their burthen. The youngest, on the other hand, journeyed on many a weary day, and found not a place where he could buy even one piece of cloth that was at all fine and good. His heart sunk beneath him, and every mile he grew more and more heavy and sorrowful. At last he came to a bridge over a stream, and there he sat himself down to rest and sigh over his bad luck, when an ugly-looking frog popped its head out of the water, and asked, with a voice that had not at all a harsh sound to his ears, what was the matter. The prince said in a pet, "Silly frog ! thou canst not help me." "Who told you so ?" said the frog ; "tell me what ails you." After a while the prince opened the whole story, and told why his father had sent him out. "I will help you," said the frog ; so it jumped back into the stream and soon came back dragging a small piece of linen not bigger than one's hand, and by no means the cleanest in the world in its look. However, there it was, and the prince was told to take it away with him. He had no great liking for such a dirty rag ; but still there was something in the frog's speech that pleased him much, and he thought to himself, "It can do no harm, it is better than nothing ;" so he picked it up, put it in his pocket, and thanked the frog, who dived down again, panting and quite tired, as it seemed, with its work. The further he went the heavier he found to his great joy the pocket grow, and so he turned himself homewards, trusting greatly in his good luck.

He reached home nearly about the same time that his brothers came up, with their horses and coaches all heavily laden. Then the old king was very glad to see his children again, and pulled the ring off his finger to try who had

done the best ; but in all the stock which the two eldest had brought there was not one piece a tenth part of which would go through the ring. At this they were greatly abashed ; for they had made a laugh of their brother, who came home, as they thought, empty-handed. But how great was their anger, when they saw him pull from his pocket a piece that for softness, beauty, and whiteness, was a thousand times better than anything that was ever before seen ! It was so fine that it passed with ease through the ring ; indeed, two such pieces would readily have gone in together. The father embraced the lucky youth, told his servants to throw the coarse linen into the sea, and said to his children, " Now you must set about the second task which I am to set you ;—bring me home a little dog, so small that it will lie in a nut-shell "

His sons were not a little frightened at such a task ; but they all longed for the crown, and made up their minds to go and try their hands, and so after a few days they set out once more on their travels. At the cross-ways they parted as before, and the youngest chose his old dreary rugged road with all the bright hopes that his former good luck gave him. Scarcely had he sat himself down again at the bridge foot, when his old friend the frog jumped out, set itself beside him, and as before, opened its big wide mouth, and croaked out, " What is the matter ? " The prince had this time no doubt of the frog's power, and therefore told what he wanted. " It shall be done for you," said the frog ; and springing into the stream it soon brought up a hazel-nut, laid it at his feet, and told him to take it home to his father, and crack it gently, and then see what would happen. The prince went his way very well pleased, and the frog, tired with its task, jumped back into the water.

His brothers had reached home first, and brought with them a great many very pretty little dogs. The old

king, willing to help them all he could, sent for a large walnut-shell and tried it with every one of the little dogs ; but one stuck fast with the hind-foot out, and another with the head, and a third with the fore-foot, and a fourth with its tail,—in short, some one way and some another ; but none were at all likely to sit easily in this new kind of kennel. When all had been tried, the youngest made his father a dutiful bow, and gave him the hazel-nut, begging him to crack it very carefully : the moment this was done out ran a beautiful little white dog upon the king's hand, wagged its tail, fondled his new master, and soon turned about and barked at the other little beasts in the most graceful manner, to the delight of the whole court. The joy of everyone was great ; the old king again embraced his lucky son, told his people to drown all the other dogs in the sea, and said to his children, " Dear sons ! your weightiest tasks are now over ; listen to my last wish ; whoever brings home the fairest lady shall be at once the heir to my crown."

The prize was so tempting and the chance so fair for all, that none made any doubts about setting to work, each in his own way, to try and be the winner. The youngest was not in such good spirits as he was the last time ; he thought to himself, " The old frog has been able to do a great deal for me ; but all its power must be nothing to me now, for where should it find me a fair maiden, still less a fairer maiden than was ever seen at my father's court ? The swamps where it lives have no living things in them, but toads, snakes, and such vermin." Meantime he went on, and sighed as he sat down again with a heavy heart by the bridge. " Ah frog !" said he, " this time thou canst do me no good." " Never mind," croaked the frog ; " only tell me what is the matter now." Then the prince told his old friend what trouble had now come upon him. " Go thy ways home," said the frog ; " the fair maiden

will follow hard after ; but take care and do not laugh at whatever may happen !” This said, it sprang as before into the water and was soon out of sight. The prince still sighed on, for he trusted very little this time to the frog’s word ; but he had not set many steps towards home before he heard a noise behind him, and looking round saw six large water-rats dragging along a large pumpkin like a coach, full trot. On the box sat an old fat toad as coachman, and behind stood two little frogs as footmen, and two fine mice with stately whiskers ran before as outriders ; within sat his old friend the frog, rather misshapen and unseemly to be sure, but still with somewhat of a graceful air as it bowed to him in passing. Much too deeply wrapt in thought as to his chance of finding the fair lady whom he was seeking, to take any heed of the strange scene before him, the prince scarcely looked at it, and had still less mind to laugh. The coach passed on a little way, and soon turned a corner that hid it from his sight ; but how astonished was he, on turning the corner himself, to find a handsome coach and six black horses standing there, with a coachman in gay livery, and within, the most beautiful lady he had ever seen, whom he soon knew to be the fair Cherry, for whom his heart had so long ago panted ! As he came up, the servants opened the coach door, and he was allowed to seat himself by the beautiful lady.

They soon came to his father’s city, where his brothers also came, with trains of fair ladies ; but as soon as Cherry was seen, all the court gave her with one voice the crown of beauty. The delighted father embraced his son, and named him the heir to his crown, and ordered all the other ladies to be thrown like the little dogs into the sea and drowned. Then the prince married Cherry and lived long and happily with her, and indeed lives with her still if he be not dead

XXIII

MOTHER HOLLE

A WIDOW had two daughters ; one of them was very pretty and thrifty, but the other was ugly and idle.

Odd as you may think it, she loved the ugly and idle one much the best, and the other was made to do all the work, and was in short quite the drudge of the whole house. Every day she had to sit on a bench by a well on the side of the high-road before the house, and spin so much that her fingers were quite sore, and at length the blood would come. Now it happened that once when her fingers had bled and the spindle was all bloody she dipt it into the well, and meant to wash it, but unluckily it fell from her hand and dropt in. Then she ran crying to her mother, and told her what had happened ; but she scolded her sharply, and said, " If you have been so silly as to let the spindle fall in, you must get it out again as well as you can." So the poor little girl went back to the well, and knew not how to begin, but in her sorrow threw herself into the water and sank down to the bottom senseless. In a short time, she seemed 'to wake as from a trance, and came to herself again ; and when she opened her eyes and looked around, she saw she was in a beautiful meadow, where the sun shone brightly, the birds sang sweetly on the boughs, and thousands of flowers sprang beneath her feet.

Then she rose up, and walked along this delightful meadow, and came to a pretty cottage by the side of a

wood ; and when she went in she saw an oven full of new bread baking, and the bread said, " Pull me out ! pull me out ! or I shall be burnt, for I am quite done enough." So she stepped up quickly and took it all out. Then she went on further, and came to a tree that was full of fine rosy-cheeked apples, and it said to her, " Shake me ! shake me ! we are all quite ripe !" So she shook the tree, and the apples fell down like a shower, until there were no more upon the tree. Then she went on again, and at length came to a small cottage where an old woman was sitting at the door : the little girl would have run away, but the old woman called out after her, " Don't be frightened, my dear child ! stay with me, I should like to have you for my little maid, and if you do all the work in the house neatly you shall fare well ; but take care to make my bed nicely, and shake it every morning out at the door, so that the feathers may fly, for then the good people below say it snows.—I am Mother Holle."

As the old woman spoke so kindly to her, the girl was willing to do as she said ; so she went into her employ, and took care to do everything to please her, and always shook the bed well, so that she led a very quiet life with her, and every day had good meat both boiled and roast to eat for her dinner.

But when she had been some time with the old lady, she became sorrowful, and although she was much better off here than at home, still she had a longing towards it, and at length said to her mistress, " I used to grieve at my troubles at home, but if they were all to come again, and I were sure of faring ever so well here, I could not stay any longer." " You are right," said her mistress ; " you shall do as you like ; and as you have worked for me so faithfully, I will myself show you the way back again." Then she took her by the hand and led her behind her cottage, and opened a door, and as the girl

stood underneath there fell a heavy shower of gold, so that she held out her apron and caught a great deal of it. And the fairy put a shining golden dress over her, and said, "All this you shall have because you have behaved so well;" and she gave her back the spindle too which had fallen into the well, and led her out by another door. When it shut behind her, she found herself not far from her mother's house; and as she went into the court-yard the cock sat upon the well-head and clapt his wings and cried out:

"Cock a-doodle-doo!

Our golden lady's come home again."

Then she went into the house, and as she was so rich she was welcomed home. When her mother heard how she got these riches, she wanted to have the same luck for her ugly and idle daughter, so she too was told to sit by the well and spin. That her spindle might be bloody, she pricked her fingers with it, and when that would not do she thrust her hand into a thorn-bush. Then she threw it into the well and sprang in herself after it. Like her sister, she came to a beautiful meadow, and followed the same path. When she came to the oven in the cottage, the bread called out as before, "Take me out! take me out! or I shall burn, I am quite done enough." But the lazy girl said, "A pretty story, indeed! just as if I should dirty myself for you!" and went on her way. She soon came to the apple-tree that cried, "Shake me! shake me! for my apples are quite ripe!" but she answered, "I will take care how I do that, for one of you might fall upon my head;" so she went on. At length she came to Mother Holle's house, and readily agreed to be her maid. The first day she behaved herself very well, and did what her mistress told her; for she thought of the gold she would give her; but the second day she began to be lazy, and the third still more so, for she

would not get up in the morning early enough, and when she did she made the bed very badly, and did not shake it so that the feathers would fly out. Mother Holle was soon tired of her, and turned her off ; but the lazy girl was quite pleased at that, and thought to herself, " Now the golden rain will come." Then the fairy took her to the same door ; but when she stood under it, instead of gold a great kettle full of dirty pitch came showering upon her. " That is your wages," said Mother Holle as she shut the door upon her. So she went home quite black with the pitch, and as she came near her mother's house the cock sat upon the well, and clapt his wings, and cried out :

" Cock-a doodle-doo !
Our dirty slut's come home again."

XXIV

THE TWELVE HUNSMEN

THERE was once a king's son who was betrothed, and his attachment to his bride was extreme. Sitting by her very happily one day conversing, a messenger suddenly arrived with the sad intelligence that his father was on his death-bed, and asked to see him before he died. The prince prepared to depart instantly, but presented his bride with a ring, saying, "Accept this as a remembrance of me, for I must leave you now, but when I am king, I will come and fetch you." The prince then departed for his own land, and upon arriving found his father at the point of death. "Dear son," said he, "I wished to see you once more before I die; now promise me to marry as I wish," naming at the same time a certain king's daughter, whom he desired should be his wife. The prince was in so much affliction, that for the time he could not reflect, but unhesitatingly said, "Dear father, I will do whatever you wish," and the king, comforted by his son's compliance, closed his eyes, and shortly after died.

The prince was directly proclaimed king, and when the time of mourning was past, he thought of keeping his promise to his father. Accordingly, demanding the hand of the princess in marriage, he received a favourable reply. His first bride heard of what had taken place, and grieved so much at his infidelity, that it seemed likely to cost her her life. Her father, not knowing what had happened,

said to her, "Dear child, why do you seem so unhappy ? whatever you wish for, you shall have." The maiden reflected for a moment, then said, "Dear father, find me eleven maidens who resemble me exactly, in face, figure, and height." "If it be possible," replied the king, "it shall be done." A search throughout the land was accordingly instituted, and at last the eleven maidens were found who perfectly resembled the princess.

Upon being presented to the princess, she commanded twelve huntsmen's dresses to be made all alike, and the eleven maidens were obliged to dress themselves in them, the princess putting on the twelfth. Then taking leave of her father, they departed, and went straight to the court of her former bridegroom, whom she still so greatly loved. Upon arriving, she inquired if they were in want of huntsmen, and begged to be taken all together into his service. The king surveyed the troop, but had no suspicion who they were ; and being so handsome, he very readily took them into his service, ordering them to be always about his person.

The king had a lion, which was a most wonderful animal, for it was acquainted with all secrets, and knew everything. One evening, conversing with the king, it said to him, ' You think, I dare say, that you have twelve huntsmen here.' "Certainly I do," replied the king, "they are twelve huntsmen." "You make a mistake, my liege," returned the lion, "they are twelve maidens." "That is unlikely and impossible," rejoined the king ; "how will you prove it ?" "Cause some peas to be strewn in your antechamber," said the lion, "and you will soon see. Men have a firm tread, and if they walk upon peas, it would not be heeded by them ; but maidens trip, and stumble, and slide, and the peas would roll in every direction." The advice pleased the king, and he ordered the peas to be scattered on the floor

There was, however, among the king's valets, one who was kind to the huntsmen, and when he heard the manner in which they were to be put to the proof, he went to them and told them all, saying, "The lion intends to convince the king that you are every one maidens." The king's daughter was very grateful to the servant, and afterwards said to her companions, "Exert yourselves, tread firmly on the peas, and let us not be discovered." Accordingly, when the king caused the twelve huntsmen to be called to him the next morning, and they entered the antechamber, wherein the peas were strewn, they trod so firmly, and had such a decided step, that not one pea rolled or moved. After they had received his commands and retired, the king said to the lion, "You have told me an untruth; they have the very step of men;" but the lion replied, "They knew what was your intention, therefore they have taken heed; but send for twelve spinning-wheels, and place them in the antechamber, and then observe how they will rejoice at the sight. No man would do that." The king approved of the advice, and the spinning-wheels were placed in the antechamber. The same valet, however, who was very kindly disposed towards the huntsmen, went to them, and discovered the plot against them. When they were alone, the princess said, "Pray avert your eyes, and do not once look at the spinning-wheels," which they promised to do; therefore, when the king sent for them the next morning, they passed through the antechamber with the utmost indifference, and did not seem to be aware the spinning-wheels were there. Again the king accused the lion of deceiving him, and asserted his firm belief that they were men, from the disregard paid to the spinning-wheels: but the lion maintained that they had been forewarned of what was to occur, and that therefore they had been able to abide the proof. The king, however, was not

convinced, and paid no further attention to what the lion said.

The twelve huntsmen always accompanied the king to the chase, for the more they were with him, the better he liked them ; and it chanced that once, as they were out hunting, the news came of the approach of the king's bride. When the true bride heard the message delivered, it conveyed such a shock, that she could not conceal her emotion, but fell fainting to the ground. The king, thinking something had befallen his favourite huntsman, hastened, to the spot, and in his anxiety to assist, drew off her gloves. The first thing he saw was his own ring, which he had presented to his bride, and upon looking at her countenance instantly recognized her. His heart painfully smote him for his faithlessness, and he was so much touched by what she must have suffered, that he kissed her, and when she opened her eyes again, said to her, " You are my own bride, and I am your bridegroom. and no one in the world can alter this." Instantly despatching a messenger to the princess, who had just arrived, he requested her to return to her own kingdom, saying, " He had already a consort, and that when one has found an old key, one no longer desires a new one." The marriage took place at once, and the lion was restored to favour, as he was proved to have spoken truth.

XXV

THE WATER OF LIFE

LONG before you and I were born there reigned, in a country a great way off, a king who had three sons. This king once fell very ill, so ill that nobody thought he could live. His sons were very much grieved at their father's sickness ; and as they walked weeping in the garden of the palace, an old man met them and asked what they ailed. They told him their father was so ill that they were afraid nothing could save him. "I know what would," said the old man ; "it is the Water of Life. If he could have a draught of it he would be well again, but it is very hard to get." Then the eldest son said, "I will soon find it," and went to the sick king, and begged that he might go in search of the Water of Life, as it was the only thing that could save him. "No," said the king ; "I had rather die than place you in such great danger as you must meet with in your journey." But he begged so hard that the king let him go ; and the prince thought to himself, "If I bring my father this water, I shall be his dearest son, and hé will make me heir to his kingdom."

Then he set out, and when he had gone on his way some time he came to a deep valley overhung with rocks and woods ; and as he looked around there stood above him on one of the rocks a little dwarf, who called out to him and said, "Prince, whither hastest thou so fast ?" "What is that to you, little ugly one ?" said the prince

sneeringly, and rode on his way. But the little dwarf fell into a great rage at his behaviour, and laid a spell of ill luck upon him, so that, as he rode on, the mountain pass seemed to become narrower and narrower, and at last the way was so straitened that he could not go a step forward, and when he thought to have turned his horse round and gone back the way he came, the passage he found had closed behind also, and shut him quite up ; he next tried to get off his horse and make his way on foot, but this he was unable to do, and so there he was forced to abide spell-bound.

Meantime the king his father was lingering on in daily hope of his return, till at last the second son said, " Father, I will go in search of this Water ;" for he thought to himself, " My brother is surely dead, and the kingdom will fall to me if I have good luck in my journey." The king was at first very unwilling to let him go, but at last yielded to his wish. So he set out and followed the same road which his brother had taken, and met the same dwarf, who stopped him at the same spot, and said as before, " Prince, whither hastest thou so fast ?" " Mind your own affairs, busy body !" answered the prince scornfully, and rode off. But the dwarf put the same enchantment upon him, and when he came like the other to the narrow pass in the mountains he could neither move forward nor backward. Thus it is with proud silly people, who think themselves too wise to take advice.

When the second prince had thus staid away a long while, the youngest said he would go and search for the Water of Life, and trusted he should soon be able to make his father well again. The dwarf met him too at the same spot, and said, " Prince, whither hastest thou so fast ?" and the prince said, " I go in search of the Water of Life, because my father is ill and like to die :— can you help me ?" " Do you know where it is to be

found?" asked the dwarf. "No," said the prince. "Then as you have spoken to me kindly and sought for advice, I will tell you how and where to go. The Water you seek springs from a well in an enchanted castle, and that you may be able to go in safety I will give you an iron wand and two little loaves of bread; strike the iron door of the castle three times with the wand, and it will open: two hungry lions will be lying down inside gaping for their prey; but if you throw them the bread they will let you pass; then hasten on to the well and take some of the Water of Life before the clock strikes twelve, for if you tarry longer the door will shut upon you for ever."

Then the prince thanked the dwarf for his friendly aid, and took the wand and the bread and went travelling on and on over sea and land till he came to his journey's end, and found everything to be as the dwarf had told him. The door flew open at the third stroke of the wand, and when the lions were quieted he went on through the castle, and came at length to a beautiful hall, around it he saw several knights sitting in a trance; then he pulled off their rings and put them on his own fingers. In another room he saw on a table a sword and a loaf of bread, which he also took. Further on he came to a room where a beautiful young lady sat upon a couch, who welcomed him joyfully, and said, if he would set her free from the spell that bound her, the kingdom should be his if he would come back in a year and marry her; then she told him that the well that held the Water of Life was in the palace gardens, and bade him make haste and draw what he wanted before the clock struck twelve. Then he went on, and as he walked through beautiful gardens he came to a delightful shady spot in which stood a couch; and he thought to himself, as he felt tired, that he would rest himself for a while and gaze on the lovely

scenes around him. So he laid himself down, and sleep fell upon him unawares and he did not wake up till the clock was striking a quarter to twelve ; then he sprung from the couch dreadfully frightened, ran to the well, filled a cup that was standing by him full of Water, and hastened to get away in time. Just as he was going out of the iron door it struck twelve, and the door fell so quickly upon him that it tore away a piece of his heel.

When he found himself safe he was overjoyed to think that he had got the Water of Life ; and as he was going on his way homewards, he passed by the little dwarf, who when he saw the sword and the loaf said, " You have made a noble prize ; with the sword you can at a blow slay whole armies, and the bread will never fail." Then the prince thought to himself, " I cannot go home to my father without my brothers ;" so he said, " Dear dwarf, cannot you tell me where my two brothers are, who set out in search of the Water of Life before me and never came back ?" " I have shut them up by a charm between two mountains," said the dwarf, " because they were proud and ill-behaved, and scorned to ask advice." The prince begged so hard for his brothers that the dwarf at last set them free, though unwillingly, saying, " Beware of them, for they have bad hearts." Their brother, however, was greatly rejoiced to see them, and told them all that had happened to him, how he had found the Water of Life, and had taken a cup full of it, and how he had set a beautiful princess free from a spell that bound her ; and how she had engaged to wait a whole year, and then to marry him and give him the kingdom. Then they all three rode on together, and on their way home came to a country that was laid waste by war and a dreadful famine, so that it was feared all must die for want. But the prince gave the king of the land the bread, and all his kingdom ate of it. And he slew the enemy's army

with the wonderful sword, and left the kingdom in peace and plenty. In the same manner he befriended two other countries that they passed through on their way.

When they came to the sea, they got into a ship, and during their voyage the two eldest said to themselves, "Our brother has got the Water which we could not find, therefore our father will forsake us, and give him the kingdom which is our right;" so they were full of envy and revenge, and agreed together how they could ruin him. They waited till he was fast asleep, and then poured the Water of Life out of the cup and took it for themselves, giving him bitter sea-water instead. And when they came to their journey's end, the youngest son brought his cup to the sick king, that he might drink and be healed. Scarcely, however, had he tasted the bitter sea-water when he became worse even than he was before, and then both the elder sons came in and blamed the youngest for what he had done, and said that he wanted to poison their father, but that they had found the Water of Life and had brought it with them. He no sooner began to drink of what they brought him, than he felt his sickness leave him, and was as strong and well as in his young days; then they went to their brother and laughed at him, and said, "Well, brother, you found the Water of Life, did you? you have had the trouble and we shall have the reward; pray, with all your cleverness why did not you manage to keep your eyes open? Next year one of us will take away your beautiful princess, if you do not take care; you had better say nothing about this to our father, for he does not believe a word you say, and if you tell tales, you shall lose your life into the bargain, but be quiet and we will let you off."

The old king was still very angry with his youngest son, and thought that he really meant to have taken away his life; so he called his court together and asked

what should be done, and it was settled that he should be put to death. The prince knew nothing of what was going on, till one day when the king's chief huntsman went a-hunting with him, and they were alone in the wood together, the huntsman looked so sorrowful that the prince said, "My friend, what is the matter with you?" "I cannot and dare not tell you," said he. But the prince begged hard and said, "Only say what it is, and do not think I shall be angry, for I will forgive you." "Alas!" said the huntsman, "the king has ordered me to shoot you." The prince started at this, and said, "Let me live, and I will change dresses with you; you shall take my royal coat to show to my father, and do you give me your shabby one." "With all my heart," said the huntsman; "I am sure I shall be glad to save you, for I could not have shot you." Then he took the prince's coat, and gave him the shabby one, and went away through the wood.

Some time after, three grand embassies came to the old king's court, with rich gifts of gold and precious stones for his youngest son, which were sent from the three kings to whom he had lent his sword and loaf of bread, to rid them of their enemy, and feed their people. This touched the old king's heart, and he thought his son might still be guiltless, and said to his court, "Oh! that my son were still alive! how it grieves me that I had him killed!" "He still lives," said the huntsman; "and I rejoice that I had pity on him, and saved him, for when the time came, I could not shoot him, but let him go in peace and brought home his royal coat." At this the king was overwhelmed with joy, and made it known throughout all his kingdom, that if his son would come back to his court, he would forgive him.

Meanwhile the princess was eagerly waiting the return of her deliverer, and had a road made leading up to her

palace all of shining gold ; and told her courtiers that whoever came on horseback and rode straight up to the gate upon it, was her true lover, and that they must let him in ; but whoever rode on one side of it, they must be sure was not the right one, and must send him away at once.

The time soon came, when the eldest thought he would make haste to go to the princess, and say that he was the one who had set her free, and that he should have her for his wife, and the kingdom with her. As he came before the palace and saw the golden road, he stopt to look at it, and thought to himself, " It is a pity to ride upon this beautiful road ; " so he turned aside and rode on the right of it. But when he came to the gate the guards said to him, he was not what he said he was, and must go about his business. The second prince set out soon afterwards on the same errand ; and when he came to the golden road, and his horse had set one foot upon it, he stopt to look at it, and thought it very beautiful, and said to himself, " What a pity it is that anything should tread here ! " then he too turned aside and rode on the left of it. But when he came to the gate the guards said he was not the true prince, and that he too must go away.

Now when the full year was come, the third brother left the wood, where he had laid for fear of his father's anger, and set out in search of his betrothed bride. So he journeyed on, thinking of her all the way, and rode so quickly that he did not even see the golden road, but went with his horse straight over it ; and as he came to the gate, it flew open, and the princess welcomed him with joy, and said he was her deliverer and should now be her husband and lord of the kingdom, and the marriage was soon kept with great feasting. When it was over, the princess told him she had heard of his father having forgiven him, and of his wish to have him home again :

so he went to visit him, and told him everything, how his brothers had cheated and robbed him, and yet that he had borne all these wrongs for the love of his father. Then the old king was very angry, and wanted to punish his wicked sons ; but they made their escape, and got into a ship and sailed away over the wide sea, and were never heard of any more.

XXVI

THE FOUR CLEVER BROTHERS

"DEAR children," said a poor man to his four sons, "I have nothing to give you ; you must go out into the world and try your luck. Begin by learning some trade, and see how you can get on." So the four brothers took their walking-sticks in their hands, and their little bundles on their shoulders, and, after bidding their father good-bye, went all out at the gate together. When they had got on some way they came to four cross-ways, each leading to a different country. Then the eldest said, "Here we must part ; but this day four years we will come back to this spot ; and in the meantime each must try what he can do for himself." So each brother went his way ; and as the oldest was hastening on, a man met him, and asked him where he was going and what he wanted. "I am going to try my luck in the world, and should like to begin by learning some trade," answered he. "Then," said the man, "go with me, and I will teach you how to become the cunningest thief that ever was." "No," said the other, "that is not an honest calling, and what can one look to earn by it in the end but the gallows ?" "Oh !" said the man, "you need not fear the gallows ; for I will only teach you to steal what will be fair game ; I meddle with nothing but what no one else can get or care anything about, and where no one can find you out." So the young man agreed to follow his trade,

and he soon showed himself so clever that nothing could escape him that he had once set his mind upon.

The second brother also met a man, who, when he found out what he was setting out upon, asked him what trade he meant to learn. "I do not know yet," said he. "Then come with me, and be a star-gazer. It is a noble trade, for nothing can be hidden from you when you understand the stars." The plan pleased him much, and he soon became such a skilful star-gazer, that when he had served out his time, and wanted to leave his master, he gave him a glass, and said, "With this you can see all that is passing in the sky and on earth, and nothing can be hidden from you."

The third brother met a huntsman, who took him with him, and taught him so well all that belonged to hunting that he became very clever in that trade; and when he left his master he gave him a bow, and said, "Whatever you shoot at with this bow you will be sure to hit."

The youngest brother likewise met a man who asked him what he wished to do. "Would not you like," said he, "to be a tailor?" "Oh no!" said the young man; "sitting cross-legged from morning to night, working backwards and forwards with a needle and goose, will never suit me." "Oh!" answered the man, "that is not my sort of tailoring; come with me, and you will learn quite another kind of trade from that." Not knowing what better to do, he came into the plan, and learnt the trade from the beginning; and when he left his master, he gave him a needle, and said, "You can sew anything with this, be it as soft as an egg, or as hard as steel, and the joint will be so fine that no seam will be seen."

After the space of four years, at the time agreed upon, the four brothers met at the four cross-roads, and having welcomed each other, set off towards their father's home, where they told him all that had happened to them,

and how each had learned some trade. Then one day, as they were sitting before the house under a very high tree, the father said, "I should like to try what each of you can do in his trade." So he looked up, and said to the second son, "At the top of this tree there is a chaffinch's nest; tell me how many eggs there are in it." The stargazer took his glass, looked up, and said, "Five." "Now," said the father to the eldest son, "take away the eggs without the bird that is sitting upon them and hatching them knowing anything of what you are doing." So the cunning thief climbed up the tree, and brought away to his father the five eggs from under the bird, who never saw or felt what he was doing, but kept sitting on at her ease. Then the father took the eggs, and put one on each corner of the table and the fifth in the middle, and said to the huntsman, "Cut all the eggs in two pieces at one shot." The huntsman took up his bow, and at one shot struck all the five eggs as his father wished. "Now comes your turn," said he to the young tailor; "sew the eggs and the young birds in them together again, so neatly that the shot shall have done no harm." Then the tailor took his needle and sewed the eggs as he was told; and when he had done, the thief was sent to take them back to the nest, and put them under the bird, without its knowing it. Then she went on sitting, and hatched them; and in a few days they crawled out, and had only a little red streak across their necks where the tailor had sewed them together.

"Well done, sons!" said the old man, "you have made good use of your time, and learnt something worth the knowing; but I am sure I do not know which ought to have the prize. Oh! that the time might soon come for you to turn your skill to some account!"

Not long after this there was a great bustle in the country; for the king's daughter had been carried off by

a mighty dragon, and the king mourned over his loss day and night, and made it known that whoever brought her back to him should have her for a wife. Then the four brothers said to each other, "Here is a chance for us ; let us try what we can do." And they agreed to see whether they could not set the princess free. "I will soon find out where she is, however," said the star-gazer as he looked through his glass, and soon cried out, "I see her afar off, sitting upon a rock in the sea, and I can spy the dragon close by, guarding her." Then he went to the king, and asked for a ship for himself and his brothers, and went with them upon the sea till they came to the right place. There they found the princess sitting, as the star-gazer had said, on the rock, and the dragon was lying asleep with his head upon her lap. "I dare not shoot at him," said the huntsman, "for I should kill the beautiful young lady also." "Then I will try my skill," said the thief ; and went and stole her away from under the dragon so quickly and gently that the beast did not know it, but went on snoring.

Then away they hastened with her full of joy in their boat towards the ship ; but soon came the dragon roaring behind them through the air, for he awoke and missed the princess ; but when he got over the boat, and wanted to pounce upon them and carry off the princess, the huntsman took up his bow and shot him straight at the heart, so that he fell down dead. They were still not safe ; for he was such a great beast, that in his fall he upset the boat, and they had to swim in the open sea upon a few planks. So the tailor took his needle, and with a few large stitches put some of the planks together, and sat down upon them, and sailed about and gathered up all the pieces of the boat, and tacked them together so quickly that the boat was soon ready, and they then reached the ship and got home safe.

When they had brought home the princess to her father, there was great rejoicing ; and he said to the four brothers, " One of you shall marry her, but you must settle amongst yourselves which it is to be." Then there arose a quarrel between them ; and the star-gazer said, " If I had not found the princess out, all your skill would have been of no use ; therefore she ought to be mine." " Your seeing her would have been of no use," said the thief, " if I had not taken her away from the dragon ; therefore she ought to be mine." " No, she is mine," said the huntsman ; " for if I had not killed the dragon, he would after all have torn you and the princess into pieces." " And if I had not sewed the boat together again," said the tailor, " you would all have been drowned ; therefore she is mine." Then the king put in a word, and said, " Each of you is right ; and as all cannot have the young lady, the best way is for neither of you to have her ; and to make up for the loss, I will give each, as a reward for his skill, half a kingdom." So the brothers agreed that would be much better than quarrelling ; and the king then gave each half a kingdom, as he had said ; and they lived very happily the rest of their days, and took good care of their father.

XXVII

THE ELFIN-GROVE

"I HOPE," said a woodman one day to his wife, "that the children will not run into that fir-grove by the side of the river ; who they are that have come to live there I cannot tell, but I am sure it looks more dark and gloomy than ever, and some queer-looking beings are to be seen lurking about it every night, as I am told." The woodman could not say that they brought any ill luck as yet, whatever they were ; for all the village had thriven more than ever since they came ; the fields looked gayer and greener, and even the sky was a deeper blue. Not knowing what to say of them, the farmer very wisely let his new friends alone, and in truth troubled his head very little about them.

That very evening little Mary and her playfellow Martin were playing at hide and seek in the valley "Where can he be hid ?" said she ; "he must have gone into the fir-grove," and down she ran to look. Just then she spied a little dog that jumped round her and wagged his tail, and led her on towards the wood. Then he ran into it, and she soon jumped up the bank to look after him, but was overjoyed to see, instead of a gloomy grove of firs, a delightful garden, where flowers and shrubs of every kind grew upon turf of the softest green ; gay butterflies flew about her, the birds sang sweetly, and, what was strangest, the prettiest little children sported about on all sides, some twining the flowers, and others

dancing in rings upon the shady spots beneath the trees. In the midst, instead of the hovels of which Mary had heard, there was a palace that dazzled her eyes with its brightness. For a while she gazed on the fairy scene around her, till at last one of the little dancers ran up to her, and said, "And you are come at last to see us? we have often seen you play about, and wished to have you with us." Then she plucked some of the fruit that grew near; and Mary at the first taste forgot her home, and wished only to see and know more of her fairy friends.

Then they led her about with them and showed her all their sports. One while they danced by moonlight on the primrose banks; at another time they skipped from bough to bough among the trees that hung over the cooling streams; for they moved as lightly and easily through the air as on the ground: and Mary went with them everywhere, for they bore her in their arms wherever they wished to go. Sometimes they would throw seeds on the turf, and directly little trees sprung up; and then they would set their feet upon the branches, while the trees grew under them, till they danced upon the boughs in the air, wherever the breezes carried them; and again the trees would sink down into the earth and land them safely at their bidding. At other times they would go and visit the palace of their queen; and there the richest food was spread before them, and the softest music was heard; and there all around grew flowers which were always changing their hues, from scarlet to purple and yellow and emerald. Sometimes they went to look at the heaps of treasure which were piled up in the royal stores; for little dwarfs were always employed in searching the earth for gold. Small as this fairy land looked from without, it seemed within to have no end; a mist hung around it to shield it from the eyes of men; and some of

the little elves sat perched upon the outermost trees, to keep watch lest the step of man should break in and spoil the charm.

"And who are you?" said Mary one day. "We are what are called elves in your world," said one whose name was Gossamer, and who had become her dearest friend: "we are told you talk a great deal about us; some of our tribe like to work you mischief, but we who live here seek only to be happy: we meddle little with mankind; but when we do come among them, it is to do them good." "And where is your queen?" said little Mary. "Hush! hush! you cannot see her or know her: you must leave us before she comes back, which will be now very soon, for mortal step cannot come where she is. But you will know that she is here when you see the meadows gayer, the rivers more sparkling, and the sun brighter."

Soon afterwards Gossamer told Mary the time was come to bid her farewell, and gave her a ring in token of their friendship, and led her to the edge of the grove. "Think of me," said she; "but beware how you tell what you have seen, or try to visit any of us again, for if you do, we shall quit this grove and come back no more." Turning back, Mary saw nothing but the gloomy fir-grove she had known before. "How frightened my father and mother will be!" thought she as she looked at the sun, which had risen some time. "They will wonder where I have been all night, and yet I must not tell them what I have seen." She hastened homewards, wondering, however, as she went, to see that the leaves, which were yesterday so fresh and green, were now falling dry and yellow around her. The cottage too seemed changed, and, when she went in, there sat her father looking some years older than when she saw him last; and her mother, whom she hardly knew, was by his side.

Close by was a young man ; "Father," said Mary, "who is this ?" "Who are you that call me father ?" said he ; "are you—no you cannot be—our long-lost Mary ?" But they soon saw that it was their Mary ; and the young man, who was her old friend and playfellow Martin, said, "No wonder you had forgotten me in seven years ; do not you remember how we parted seven years ago while playing in the field ? We thought you were quite lost ; but we are glad to see that someone has taken care of you and brought you home at last." Mary said nothing, for she could not tell all ; but she wondered at the strange tale, and felt gloomy at the change from fairy land to her father's cottage.

Little by little she came to herself, thought of her story as a mere dream, and soon became Martin's bride. Everything seemed to thrive around them ; and Mary called her first little girl Elfie, in memory of her friends. The little thing was loved by everyone. It was pretty and very good-tempered ; Mary thought that it was very like a little elf ; and all, without knowing why, called it the fairy child.

One day, while Mary was dressing her little Elfie, she found a piece of gold hanging round her neck by a silken thread, and knew it to be of the same sort as she had seen in the hands of the fairy dwarfs. Elfie seemed sorry at its being seen, and said that she had found it in the garden. But Mary watched her and soon found that she went every afternoon to sit by herself in a shady place behind the house : so one day she hid herself to see what the child did there ; and to her great wonder Gossamer was sitting by her side. "Dear Elfie," she was saying, "your mother and I used to sit thus when she was young and lived among us. Oh ! if you could but come and do so too ! but since our queen came to us it cannot be ; yet I will come and see you and talk to you, whilst

you are a child ; when you grow up we must part for ever." Then she plucked one of the roses that grew around them and breathed gently upon it, and said, "Take this for my sake. It will keep its freshness a whole year."

Then Mary loved her little Elfie more than ever ; and when she found that she spent some hours of almost every day with the elf, she used to hide herself and watch them without being seen, till one day when Gossamer was bearing her little friend through the air from tree to tree, her mother was so frightened lest her child should fall that she could not help screaming out, and Gossamer set her gently on the ground and seemed angry, and flew away. But still she used sometimes to come and play with her little friend, and would soon have done so perhaps the same as before, had not Mary one day told her husband the whole story, for she could not bear to hear him always wondering and laughing at their little child's odd ways, and saying he was sure there was something in the fir-grove that brought them no good. So to show him that all she said was true, she took him to see Elfie and the fairy ; but no sooner did Gossamer know that he was there (which she did in an instant), than she changed herself into a raven and flew off into the fir-grove.

Mary burst into tears, and so did Elfie, for she knew she should see her dear friend no more ; but Martin was restless and bent upon following up his search after the fairies ; so when night came he stole away towards the grove. When he came to it nothing was to be seen but the gloomy firs and the old hovels ; and the thunder rolled, and the wind groaned and whistled through the trees. It seemed that all about him was angry ; so he turned homewards frightened at what he had done.

In the morning all the neighbours flocked around, asking one another what the noise and bustle of the last night could mean ; and when they looked about them,

their trees looked blighted, and the meadows parched, the streams were dried up, and everything seemed troubled and sorrowful, but they all thought that somehow or other the fir-grove had not near so forbidding a look as it used to have. Strange stories were told, how one had heard flutterings in the air, another had seen the fir-grove as it were alive with little beings that flew away from it. Each neighbour told his tale, and all wondered what could have happened; but Mary and her husband knew what was the matter, and bewailed their folly; for they foresaw that their kind neighbours, to whom they owed all their luck, were gone for ever. Among the bystanders none told a wilder story than the old ferryman who plied across the river at the foot of the grove; he told how at midnight his boat was carried away, and how hundreds of little beings seemed to load it with treasures; how a strange piece of gold was left for him in the boat, as his fare; how the air seemed full of fairy forms fluttering around; and how at last a great train passed over that seemed to be guarding their leader to the meadows on the other side; and how he heard soft music floating around as they flew, and how sweet voices sang as they hovered over his head:

“Fairy Queen!
Fairy Queen!
Mortal steps are on the green;
Come away!
Haste away!
Fairies, guard your Queen!
Hither, hither, fairy Queen!
Lest thy silvery wing be seen;
O'er the sky
Fly, fly, fly!
Fairies, guard your lady Queen!
O'er the sky
Fly, fly, fly!
Fairies, guard your Queen!

“ Fairy Queen !
Fairy Queen !
‘Thou hast pass’d the treach’rous scene ;
Now we may
Down and play
O’er the daisied green.
Lightly, lightly, fairy Queen !
Trip it gently o’er the green :
Fairies gay,
Trip away
Round about your lady Queen !
Fairies gay,
Trip away
Round about your Queen !”

Poor Elfie mourned their loss the most, and would spend whole hours in looking upon the rose that her playfellow had given her, and singing over it the pretty airs she had taught her ; till at length when the year’s charm had passed away and it began to fade, she planted the stalk in her garden, and there it grew and grew till she could sit under the shade of it and think of her friend Gossamer.

XXVIII

THE NOSE

DID you ever hear the story of the three poor soldiers, who, after having fought hard in the wars, set out on their road home begging their way as they went ?

They had journeyed on a long way, sick at heart with their bad luck at thus being turned loose on the world in their old days, when one evening they reached a deep gloomy wood through which they must pass ; night came fast upon them, and they found that they must, however unwillingly, sleep in the wood ; so to make all as safe as they could, it was agreed that two should lie down and sleep, while a third sat up and watched lest wild beasts should break in and tear them to pieces ; when he was tired he was to wake one of the others and sleep in his turn, and so on with the third, so as to share the work fairly among them.

The two who were to rest first soon lay down and fell fast asleep, and the other made himself a good fire under the trees and sat down by the side to keep watch. He had not sat long before all on a sudden up came a little man in a red jacket. "Who's there ?" said he. "A friend," said the soldier. "What sort of a friend ?" "An old broken soldier," said the other, "with his two comrades who have nothing left to live on ; come, sit down and warm yourself." "Well, my worthy fellow," said the little man, "I will do what I can for you ; take this and show it to your comrades in the morning." So

he took out an old cloak and gave it to the soldier, telling him that whenever he put it over his shoulders anything that he wished for would be fulfilled ; then the little man made him a bow and walked away.

The second soldier's turn to watch soon came, and the first laid himself down to sleep ; but the second man had not sat by himself long before up came the little man in the red jacket again. The soldier treated him in a friendly way as his comrade had done, and the little man gave him a purse, which he told him was always full of gold, let him draw as much as he would.

Then the third soldier's turn to watch came, and he also had the little man for his guest, who gave him a wonderful horn that drew crowds around it whenever it was played , and made everyone forget his business to come and dance to its beautiful music.

In the morning each told his story and showed his treasure ; and as they all liked each other very much and were old friends, they agreed to travel together to see the world, and for a while only to make use of the wonderful purse. And thus they spent their time very joyously, till at last they began to be tired of this roving life, and thought they should like to have a home of their own. So the first soldier put his old cloak on, and wished for a fine castle. In a moment it stood before their eyes ; fine gardens and green lawns spread round it, and flocks of sheep and goats and herds of oxen were grazing about, and out of the gate came a fine coach with three dapple gray horses to meet them and bring them home.

All this was very well for a time ; but it would not do to stay at home always, so they got together all their rich clothes and horses and servants, and ordered their coach with three horses, and set out on a journey to see a neighbouring king. Now this king had an only daughter, and as he took the three soldiers for kings' sons, he gave

them a kind welcome. One day, as the second soldier was walking with the princess, she saw him with the wonderful purse in his hand ; and having asked him what it was, he was foolish enough to tell her ;—though indeed it did not much signify, for she was a witch and knew all the wonderful things that the three soldiers brought. Now this princess was very cunning and artful ; so she set to work and made a purse so like the soldier's that no one would know one from the other, and then asked him to come and see her, and made him drink some wine that she had got ready for him, till he fell fast asleep. Then she felt in his pocket, and took away the wonderful purse and left the one she had made in its place.

The next morning the soldiers set out home, and soon after they reached their castle, happening to want some money, they went to their purse for it, and found something indeed in it, but to their great sorrow when they had emptied it, none came in the place of what they took. Then the cheat was soon found out ; for the second soldier knew where he had been, and how he had told the story to the princess, and he guessed that she had betrayed him. "Alas !" cried he, "poor wretches that we are, what shall we do ?" "Oh !" said the first soldier, "let no gray hairs grow for this mishap ; I will soon get the purse back." So he threw his cloak across his shoulders and wished himself in the princess's chamber. There he found her sitting alone, telling her gold that fell around her in a shower from the purse. But the soldier stood looking at her too long, for the moment she saw him she started up and cried out with all her force, "Thieves ! Thieves !" so that the whole court came running in and tried to seize him. The poor soldier now began to be dreadfully frightened in his turn, and thought it was high time to make the best of his way off ; so without thinking of the ready way of travelling that his cloak

gave him, he ran to the window, opened it, and jumped out ; and unluckily in his haste his cloak caught and was left hanging, to the great joy of the princess, who knew its worth.

The poor soldier made the best of his way home to his comrades, on foot and in a very downcast mood ; but the third soldier told him to keep up his heart, and took his horn and blew a merry tune. At the first blast a countless troop of foot and horse came rushing to their aid, and they set out to make war against their enemy. Then the king's palace was besieged, and he was told that he must give up the purse and cloak, or that not one stone should be left upon another. And the king went into his daughter's chamber and talked with her ; but she said, " Let me try first if I cannot beat them some other way." So she thought of a cunning scheme to overreach them, and dressed herself out as a poor girl with a basket on her arm ; and set out by night with her maid, and went into the enemy's camp as if she wanted to sell trinkets.

In the morning she began to ramble about, singing ballads so beautifully, that all the tents were left empty, and the soldiers ran round in crowds and thought of nothing but hearing her sing. Amongst the rest came the soldier to whom the horn belonged, and as soon as she saw him she winked to her maid, who slipped slyly through the crowd and went into his tent where it hung, and stole it away. This done, they both got safely back to the palace ; the besieging army went away, the three wonderful gifts were all left in the hands of the princess, and the three soldiers were as penniless and forlorn as when the little man with the red jacket found them in the wood.

Poor fellows ! they began to think what was now to be done. " Comrades," at last said the second soldier, who had had the purse, " we had better part, we cannot live together, let each seek his bread as well as he can." So

he turned to the right, and the other two to the left ; for they said they would rather travel together. Then on he strayed till he came to a wood (now this was the same wood where they had met with so much good luck before) ; and he walked on a long time till evening began to fall, when he sat down tired beneath a tree, and soon fell asleep.

Morning dawned, and he was greatly delighted, at opening his eyes, to see that the tree was laden with the most beautiful apples. He was hungry enough, so he soon plucked and ate first one, then a second, then a third apple. A strange feeling came over his nose : when he put the apple to his mouth something was in the way ; he felt it ; it was his nose that grew and grew till it hung down to his breast. It did not stop there, still it grew and grew, "Heavens !" thought he, "when will it have done growing ?" And well might he ask, for by this time it reached the ground as he sat on the grass, and thus it kept creeping on till he could not bear its weight, or raise himself up ; and it seemed as if it would never end, for already it stretched its enormous length all through the wood.

Meantime his comrades were journeying on, till on a sudden one of them stumbled against something. "What can that be ?" said the other. They looked, and could think of nothing that it was like but a nose. "We will follow it and find its owner, however," said they ; so they traced it up till at last they found their poor comrade lying stretched along under the apple-tree. What was to be done ? They tried to carry him, but in vain. They caught an ass that was passing by, and raised him upon its back ; but it was soon tired of carrying such a load. So they sat down in despair, when up came the little man in the red jacket. "Why, how now, friend ?" said he, laughing ; "well, I must find a cure for you, I see." So

he told them to gather a pear from a tree that grew close by, and the nose would come right again. No time was lost, and the nose was soon brought to its proper size, to the poor soldier's joy.

"I will do something more for you yet," said the little man; "take some of those pears and apples with you; whoever eats one of the apples will have his nose grow like yours just now; but if you give him a pear, all will come right again. Go to the princess and get her to eat some of your apples; her nose will grow twenty times as long as yours did; then look sharp, and you will get what you want of her."

Then they thanked their old friend very heartily for all his kindness, and it was agreed that the poor soldier who had already tried the power of the apple should undertake the task. So he dressed himself up as a gardener's boy, and went to the king's palace, and said he had apples to sell, such as were never seen there before. Every one that saw them was delighted and wanted to taste, but he said they were only for the princess; and she soon sent her maid to buy his stock. They were so ripe and rosy that she soon began eating, and had already eaten three when she too began to wonder what ailed her nose, for it grew and grew, down to the ground, out at the window, and over the garden, nobody knows where.

Then the king made known to all his kingdom, that whoever would heal her of this dreadful disease should be richly rewarded. Many tried, but the princess got no relief. And now the old soldier dressed himself up very sprucely as a doctor, who said he could cure her; so he chopped up some of the apple, and to punish her a little more gave her a dose, saying he would call to-morrow and see her again. The morrow came, and of course, instead of being better, the nose had been growing fast all night, and the poor princess was in a dreadful fright.

So the doctor chopped up a very little of the pear and gave her, and said he was sure that would do good, and he would call again the next day. Next day came, and the nose was to be sure a little smaller, but yet it was bigger than it was when the doctor first began to meddle with it.

Then he thought to himself, "I must frighten this cunning princess a little more before I shall get what I want of her;" so he gave her another dose of the apple, and said he would call on the morrow. The morrow came, and the nose was ten times as bad as before. "My good lady," said the doctor, "something works against my medicine, and is too strong for it; but I know by the force of my art, what it is; you have stolen goods about you, I am sure, and if you do not give them back, I can do nothing for you." But the princess denied very stoutly that she had anything of the kind. "Very well," said the doctor, "you may do as you please, but I am sure I am right, and you will die if you do not own it." Then he went to the king, and told him how the matter stood. "Daughter," said he, "send back the cloak, the purse, and the horn, that you stole from the right owners."

Then she ordered her maid to fetch all three, and gave them to the doctor, and begged him to give them back to the soldiers; and the moment he had them safe he gave her a whole pear to eat, and the nose came right. And as for the doctor, he put on the cloak, wished the king and all his court a good day, and was soon with his two brothers, who lived from that time happily at home in their palace, except when they took airings in their coach with the three dapple gray horses.

XXIX

THE FIVE SERVANTS

SOME time ago there reigned in a country many thousands of miles off an old queen who was very spiteful and delighted in nothing so much as mischief. She had one daughter, who was thought to be the most beautiful princess in the world ; but her mother only made use of her as a trap for the unwary ; and whenever any suitor who had heard of her beauty came to seek her in marriage, the only answer the old lady gave to each was, that he must undertake some very hard task and forfeit his life if he failed. Many, led by the report of the princess's charms, undertook these tasks, but failed in doing what the queen set them to do. No mercy was ever shown them ; but the word was given at once, and off their heads were cut.

Now it happened that a prince who lived in a country far off, heard of the great beauty of this young lady, and said to his father, " Dear father, let me go and try my luck." " No," said the king ; " if you go you will surely lose your life." The prince, however, had set his heart so much upon the scheme, that when he found his father was against it he fell very ill, and took to his bed for seven years, and no art could cure him, or recover his lost spirits : so when his father saw that if he went on thus he would die, he said to him with a heart full of grief, " If it must be so, go and try your luck." At this he rose

from his bed, recovered his health, and spirits, and went forward on his way light of heart and full of joy.

Then on he journeyed over hill and dale, through fair weather and foul, till one day, as he was riding through a wood, he thought he saw afar off some large animal upon the ground, and as he drew near he found that it was a man lying along upon the grass under the trees ; but he looked more like a mountain than a man, he was so fat and jolly. When this big fellow saw the traveller, he arose, and said, " If you want anyone to wait upon you, you will do well to take me into your service." " What should I do with such a fat fellow as you ?" said the prince. " It would be nothing to you if I were three thousand times as fat," said the man, " so that I do but behave myself well " " That's true," answered the prince, " so come with me, I can put you to some use or another I dare say." Then the fat man rose up and followed the prince, and by and by they saw another man lying on the ground with his ear close to the turf. The prince said, " What are you doing there ?" " I am listening," answered the man. " To what ?" " To all that is going on in the world, for I can hear everything, I can even hear the grass grow." " Tell me," said the prince, " what you hear is going on at the court of the old queen, who has the beautiful daughter." " I hear," said the listener, " the noise of the sword that is cutting off the head of one of her suitors." " Well !" said the prince, " I see I shall be able to make you of use ;—come along with me !" They had not gone far before they saw a pair of feet, and then part of the legs of a man stretched out ; but they were so long that they could not see the rest of the body, till they had passed on a good deal further, and at last they came to the body, and, after going on a while further, to the head ; " Bless me !" said the prince, " what a long rope you are !" " Oh !"

answered the tall man, "this is nothing, when I choose to stretch myself to my full length, I am three times as high as any mountain you have seen on your travels, I warrant you; I will willingly do what I can to serve you if you will let me." "Come along then," said the prince, "I can turn you to account in some way."

The prince and his train went on further into the wood, and next saw a man lying by the roadside basking in the heat of the sun, yet shaking and shivering all over, so that not a limb lay still. "What makes you shiver," said the prince, "while the sun is shining so warm?" "Alas!" answered the man, "the warmer it is, the colder I am; the sun only seems to me like a sharp frost that thrills through all my bones; and on the other hand, when others are what you call cold I begin to be warm, so that I can neither bear the ice for its heat nor the fire for its cold." "You are a queer fellow," said the prince; "but if you have nothing else to do, come along with me." The next thing they saw was a man standing, stretching his neck and looking around him from hill to hill. "What are you looking for so eagerly?" said the prince. "I have such sharp eyes," said the man, "that I can see over woods and fields and hills and dales;—in short, all over the world." "Well," said the prince, "come with me if you will, for I want one more to make up my train."

Then they all journeyed on, and met with no one else till they came to the city where the beautiful princess lived. The prince went straight to the old queen, and said, "Here I am, ready to do any task you set me, if you will give me your daughter as a reward when I have done." "I will set you three tasks," said the queen; "and if you get through all, you shall be the husband of my daughter. First, you must bring me a ring which I dropped in the Red Sea." The prince went home to his

friends and said, "The first task is not an easy one ; it is to fetch a ring out of the Red Sea, so lay your heads together and say what is to be done." Then the sharp-sighted one said, "I will see where it lies," and looked down into the sea, and cried out, "There it lies upon a rock at the bottom." "I would fetch it out," said the tall man, "if I could but see it." "Well!" cried out the fat one, "I will help you to do that," and laid himself down and held his mouth to the water, and drank up the waves till the bottom of the sea was as dry as a meadow. Then the tall man stooped a little and pulled out the ring with his hand, and the prince took it to the old queen, who looked at it, and wondering said, "It is indeed the right ring ; you have gone through this task well : but now comes the second ; look yonder at the meadow before my palace ; see ! there are a hundred fat oxen feeding there ; you must eat them all up before noon : and underneath in my cellar there are a hundred casks of wine, which you must drink all up." "May I not invite some guests to share the feast with me?" said the prince. "Why, yes!" said the old woman with a spiteful laugh ; "you may ask one of your friends to breakfast with you, but no more."

Then the prince went home and said to the fat man, "You must be my guest to-day, and for once you shall eat your fill." So the fat man set to work and ate the hundred oxen without leaving a bit, and asked if that was to be all he should have for his breakfast ? and he drank the wine out of the casks without leaving a drop, licking even his fingers when he had done. When the meal was ended, the prince went to the old woman and told her the second task was done. "Your work is not all over, however," muttered the old hag to herself ; "I will catch you yet, you shall not keep your head upon your shoulders if I can help it." "This evening," said

she, "I will bring my daughter into your house and leave her with you; you shall sit together there, but take care that you do not fall asleep; for I shall come when the clock strikes twelve, and if she is not then with you, you are undone." "O!" thought the prince, "it is an easy task to keep such a watch as that; I will take care to keep my eyes open." So he called his servants and told them all that the old woman had said. "Who knows though," said he, "but there may be some trick at the bottom of this? it is as well to be upon our guard and keep watch that the young lady does not get away." When it was night the old woman brought her daughter to the prince's house; then the tall man twisted himself round about it, the listener put his ear to the ground, the fat man placed himself before the door so that no living soul could enter, and the sharp-eyed one looked out afar and watched. Within sat the princess without saying a word, but the moon shone bright through the window upon her face, and the prince gazed upon her wonderful beauty. And while he looked upon her with a heart full of joy and love, his eyelids did not droop; but at eleven o'clock the old woman cast a charm over them so that they all fell asleep, and the princess vanished in a moment.

And thus they slept till a quarter to twelve, when the charm had no longer any power over them, and they all awoke. "Alas! alas! woe is me," cried the prince; "now I am lost for ever." And his faithful servants began to weep over their unhappy lot; but the listener said, "Be still and I will listen;" so he listened a while, and cried out, "I hear her bewailing her fate;" and the sharp-sighted man looked, and said, "I see her sitting on a rock three hundred miles hence; now help us, my tall friend; if you stand up, you will reach her in two steps." "Very well," answered the tall man; and in an instant, before

one could turn one's head round, he was at the foot of the enchanted rock. Then the tall man took the young lady in his arms and carried her back to the prince a moment before it struck twelve; and they all sat down again and made merry. And when the clock struck twelve the old queen came sneaking by with a spiteful look, as if she was going to say "Now he is mine;" nor could she think otherwise, for she knew that her daughter was but the moment before on the rock three hundred miles off; but when she came and saw her daughter in the prince's room, she started, and said "There is somebody here who can do more than I can." However, she now saw that she could no longer avoid giving the prince her daughter for a wife, but said to her in a whisper, "It is a shame that you should be won by servants, and not have a husband of your own choice."

Now the young lady was of a very proud haughty temper, and her anger was raised to such a pitch, that the next morning she ordered three hundred loads of wood to be brought and piled up; and told the prince it was true he had by the help of his servants done the three tasks, but that before she would marry him someone must sit upon that pile of wood when it was set on fire and bear the heat. She thought to herself that though his servants had done everything else for him, none of them would go so far as to burn themselves for him, and that then she should put his love to the test by seeing whether he would sit upon it himself. But she was mistaken; for when the servants heard this, they said, "We have all done something but the frosty man; now his turn is come;" and they took him and put him on the wood and set it on fire. Then the fire rose and burned for three long days, till all the wood was gone; and when it was out, the frosty man stood in the midst of the ashes trembling like an aspen-leaf, and said, "I never shivered

so much in my life ; if it had lasted much longer, I should have lost the use of my limbs."

When the princess had no longer any plea for delay, she saw that she was bound to marry the prince ; but when they were going to church, the old woman said, " I will never consent ;" and sent secret orders out to her horsemen to kill and slay all before them and bring back her daughter before she could be married. However, the listener had pricked up his ears and heard all that the old woman said, and told it to the prince. So they made haste and got to the church first, and were married ; and then the five servants took their leave and went away saying, " We will go and try our luck in the world on our own account."

The prince set out with his wife, and at the end of the first day's journey came to a village, where a swineherd was feeding his swine ; and as they came near he said to his wife, " Do you know who I am ? I am not a prince, but a poor swineherd ; he whom you see yonder with the swine is my father, and our business will be to help him to tend them." Then he went into the swineherd's hut with her, and ordered her royal clothes to be taken away in the night ; so that when she awoke in the morning, she had nothing to put on, till the woman who lived there made a great favour of giving her an old gown and a pair of worsted stockings " If it were not for your husband's sake," said she, " I would not have given you anything." Then the poor princess gave herself up for lost, and believed that her husband must indeed be a swineherd ; but she thought she would make the best of it, and began to help him to feed them, and said, " It is a just reward for my pride." When this had lasted eight days she could bear it no longer, for her feet were all over wounds, and as she sat down and wept by the wayside, some people came up to her and pitied her, and asked if she knew what

her husband really was. "Yes," said she; "a swine-herd; he is just gone out to market with some of his stock." But they said, "Come along and we will take you to him;" and they took her over the hill to the palace of the prince's father; and when they came into the hall, there stood her husband so richly drest in his royal clothes that she did not know him till he fell upon her neck and kissed her, and said, "I have borne much for your sake, and you too have borne a great deal for me." Then the guests were sent for, and the marriage feast was given, and all made merry and danced and sung, and the best wish that I can wish is, that you and I had been there too.

XXX

THE ROBBER-BRIDEGROOM

THERE was once a miller who had a pretty daughter ; and when she was grown up, he thought to himself, " If a seemly man should come to ask her for his wife, I will give her to him that she may be taken care of." Now it so happened that one did come, who seemed to be very rich, and behaved very well ; and as the miller saw no reason to find fault with him, he said he should have his daughter. Yet the maiden did not love him quite so well as a bride ought to love her bridegroom, but, on the other hand, soon began to feel a kind of inward shuddering whenever she saw or thought of him.

One day he said to her, " Why do you not come and see my home, since you are to be my bride ?" " I do not know where your house is," said the girl. "'Tis out there," said her bridegroom, " yonder in the dark green wood." Then she began to try and avoid going, and said, " But I cannot find the way thither." " Well, but you must come and see me next Sunday," said the bridegroom ; " I have asked some guests to meet you, and that you may find your way through the wood, I will strew ashes for you along the path."

When Sunday came and the maiden was to go out, she felt very much troubled, and took care to put on two pockets, and filled them with peas and beans. She soon came to a wood, and found her path strewed with ashes ; so she followed the track, and at every step threw a pea

on the right and a bean on the left side of the road ; and thus she journeyed on the whole day till she came to a house which stood in the middle of a dark wood. She saw no one within, and all was quite still, till on a sudden she heard a voice cry :

“Turn again, bonny bride !
Turn again home !
Haste from the robber's den,
Haste away ho-ne !”

She looked around, and was a little bird sitting in a cage hung over the door ; and he flapped his wings, and again she heard him cry :

“Turn again, bonny bride !
Turn again home !
Haste from the robber's den,
Haste away home !”

However, the bride went in, and roamed along from one room to another, and so over all the house ; but it was quite empty, and not a soul could she see. At last she came to a room where a very, very old woman was sitting. “Pray, can you tell me, my good woman,” said she, “if my bridegroom lives here ?” “Ah ! my dear child !” said the old woman, “you are come to fall into the trap laid for you ; your wedding can only be with Death, for the robber will surely take away your life ! if I do not save you, you are lost !” so she hid the bride behind a large cask, and then said to her, “Do not stir or move yourself at all lest some harm should befall you ; and when the robbers are asleep we will run off ; I have long wished to get away.”

She had hardly done this when the robbers came in, and brought another young maiden with them that had been ensnared like the bride. Then they began to feast and drink, and were deaf to her shrieks and groans : and

they gave her some wine to drink, three glasses, one of white, one of red, and one of yellow; upon which she fainted and fell down dead. Now the bride began to grow very uneasy behind the cask, and thought that she too must die in her turn. Then the one that was to be her bridegroom saw that there was a gold ring on the little finger of the maiden they had murdered; and as he tried to snatch it off, it flew up in the air and fell down again behind the cask just in the bride's lap. So he took a light, and searched about all round the room for it, but could not find anything; and another of the robbers said, "Have you looked behind the large cask yet?" "Pshaw!" said the old woman, "Come, sit still and eat your supper now, and leave the ring alone till to-morrow; it won't run away, I'll warrant."

So the robbers gave up the search, and went on with their eating and drinking; but the old woman dropped a sleeping-draught into their wine, and they laid themselves down and slept, and snored roundly. And when the bride heard this, she stepped out from behind the cask; and as she was forced to walk over the sleepers, who were lying about on the floor, she trembled lest she should awaken some of them. But heaven aided her, so that she soon got through her danger; and the old woman went upstairs with her, and they both ran away from this murderous den. The ashes that had been strewed were now all blown away, but the peas and beans had taken root, and were springing up, and showed her the way by the light of the moon. So they walked the whole night, and in the morning reached the mill; when the bride told her father all that had happened to her.

As soon as the day arrived when the wedding was to take place, the bridegroom came; and the miller gave orders that all his friends and relations should be asked to the feast. And as they were all sitting at table, one of

them proposed that each of the guests should tell some tale. Then the bridegroom said to the bride, when it came to her turn, "Well, my dear, do you know nothing? come tell us some story." "Yes," answered she, "I can tell you a dream that I dreamt. I once thought I was going through a wood, and went on and on till I came to a house where there was not a soul to be seen, but a bird in a cage, that cried out twice :

"Turn again, bonny bride!
Turn again home!
Haste from the robber's den,
Haste away home!"

—I only dreamt that, my love. Then I went through all the rooms, which were quite empty, until I came to a room where there sat a very old woman; and I said to her, 'Does my bridegroom live here?' but she answered, 'Ah' my dear child! you have fallen into a murderer's snare, your bridegroom will surely kill you;—I only dreamt that, my love. But she hid me behind a large cask; and hardly had she done this, when the robbers came in dragging a young woman along with them; then they gave her three kinds of wine to drink, white, red, and yellow, till she fell dead upon the ground;—I only dreamt that, my love. After they had done this, one of the robbers saw that there was a gold ring on her little finger, and snatched at it; but it flew up to the ceiling, and then fell behind the great cask just where I was, and into my lap; and here is the ring!' At these words she brought out the ring and showed it to the guests.

When the robber saw all this, and heard what she said, he grew as pale as ashes with fright, and wanted to run off; but the guests held him fast and gave him up to justice, so that he and all his gang met with the due reward of their wickedness.

XXXI

ROLAND AND MAY-BIRD

THERE WAS once a poor man who went every day to cut wood in the forest. One day as he went along he heard a cry like a little child's ; so he followed the sound till at last he looked up a high tree, and on one of the branches sat a very little girl. Its mother had fallen asleep, and a vulture had taken it out of her lap and flown away with it and left it on the tree. Then the wood-cutter climbed up, took the little child down, and said to himself, "I will take this poor child home and bring it up with my own son Roland." So he brought it to his cottage, and both grew up together ; and he called the little girl May-bird, because he had found her on a tree in May ; and May-bird and Roland were so very fond of each other that they were never happy but when they were together

But the wood-cutter became very poor, and had nothing in the world he could call his own, and indeed he had scarcely bread enough for his wife and the two children to eat. At last the time came when even that was all gone, and he knew not where to seek for help in his need. Then at night, as he lay on his bed and turned himself here and there, restless and full of care, his wife said to him, "Husband, listen to me, and take the two children out early to-morrow morning ; give each of them a piece of bread, and then lead them into the midst of the wood where it is thickest, make a fire for them, and go away and leave them alone to shift for themselves, for we can

no longer keep them here." "No, wife," said the husband, "I cannot find it in my heart to leave the children to the wild beasts of the forests, who would soon tear them to pieces." "Well, if you will not do as I say," answered the wife, "we must all starve together:" and she let him have no peace until he came into her plan.

Meantime the poor children too were lying awake restless, and weak from hunger, so that they heard all that their mother said to her husband. "Now," thought May-bird to herself, "it is all up with us:" and she began to weep. But Roland crept to her bedside, and said, "Do not be afraid, May-bird, I will find out some help for us." Then he got up, put on his jacket, and opened the door and went out.

The moon shone bright upon the little court before the cottage, and the white pebbles glittered like daisies on the green meadows. So he stooped down, and put as many as he could into his pocket, and then went back to the house. "Now, May-bird," said he, "rest in peace;" and he went to bed and fell fast asleep.

Early in the morning, before the sun had risen, the woodman's wife came and awoke them. "Get up, children," said she, "we are going into the wood; there is a piece of bread for each of you, but take care of it and keep some for the afternoon." May-bird took the bread and carried it in her apron, because Roland had his pocket full of stones, and they made their way into the wood.

After they had walked on for a time, Roland stood still and looked towards home, and after a while turned again, and so on several times. Then his father said, "Roland, why do you keep turning and lagging about so? move your legs on a little faster." "Ah! father," answered Roland, "I am stopping to look at my white cat that sits on the roof, and wants to say good-bye to me." "You

little fool!" said his mother, "that is not your cat; 'tis the morning sun shining on the chimney top." Now Roland had not been looking at the cat, but had all the while been staying behind to drop from his pocket one white pebble after another along the road.

When they came into the midst of the wood, the woodman said, "Run about, children, and pick up some wood, and I will make a fire to keep us all warm." So they piled up a little heap of brush-wood, and set it a-fire; and as the flame burnt bright, the mother said, "Now set yourselves by the fire and go to sleep, while we go and cut wood in the forest; be sure you wait till we come again and fetch you." Roland and May-bird sat by the fire-side till the afternoon, and then each of them ate their piece of bread. They fancied the woodman was still in the wood, because they thought they heard the blows of his axe; but it was a bough which he had cunningly hung upon a tree, so that the wind blew it backwards and forwards, and it sounded like the axe as it hit the other boughs. Thus they waited till evening; but the woodman and his wife kept away, and no one came to fetch them.

When it was quite dark May-bird began to cry; but Roland said, "Wait awhile till the moon rises." And when the moon rose, he took her by the hand, and there lay the pebbles along the ground, glittering like new pieces of money, and marked the way out. Towards morning they came again to the woodman's house, and he was glad in his heart when he saw the children again; for he had grieved at leaving them alone. His wife also seemed to be glad; but in her heart she was angry at it.

Not long after there was again no bread in the house, and May-bird and Roland heard the wife say to her husband, "The children found their way back once, and I took it in good part; but there is only half a loaf of bread left for them in the house; to-morrow you must take

them deeper into the wood, that they may not find their way out, or we shall all be starved." It grieved the husband in his heart to do as his wife wished, and he thought it would be better to share their last morsel with the children ; but as he had done as she said once, he did not dare to say no. When the children had heard all their plan, Roland got up and wanted to pick up pebbles as before ; but when he came to the door he found his mother had locked it. Still he comforted May-bird, and said, " Sleep in peace, dear May-bird ; God is very kind and will help us." Early in the morning a piece of bread was given to each of them, but still smaller than the one they had before. Upon the road Roland crumbled his in his pocket, and often stood still, and threw a crumb upon the ground. " Why do you lag so behind, Roland ?" said the woodman ; " go your ways on before " " I am looking at my little dove that is sitting upon the roof and wants to say good-bye to me." " You silly boy !" said the wife, " that is not your little dove, it is the morning sun that shines on the chimney top." But Roland went on crumbling his bread, and throwing it on the ground. And thus they went on still further into the wood, where they had never been before in all their life. There they were again told to sit down by a large fire, and sleep ; and the woodman and his wife said they would come in the evening and fetch them away. In the afternoon Roland shared May-bird's bread, because he had strewed all his upon the road ; but the day passed away, and evening passed away too, and no one came to the poor children. Still Roland comforted May-bird, and said, " Wait till the moon rises ; then I shall see the crumbs of bread which I have strewed, and they will show us the way home."

The moon rose ; but when Roland looked for the crumbs, they were gone ; for thousands of little birds in the wood had found them and picked them up. Roland, however,

set out to try and find his way home ; but they soon lost themselves in the wilderness, and went on through the night and all the next day, till at last they lay down and fell asleep for weariness : and another day they went on as before, but still did not reach the end of the wood, and were as hungry as could be, for they had nothing to eat.

In the afternoon of the third day they came to a strange little hut, made of bread, with a roof of cake, and windows of sparkling sugar. " Now we will sit down and eat till we have had enough," said Roland ; " I will eat off the roof for my share ; do you eat the windows, May-bird, they will be nice and sweet for you." Whilst May-bird, however, was picking at the sugar, a sweet pretty voice called from within :

" Tip, tap ! who goes there ?"

But the children answered :

" The wind, the wind,
That blows through the air ;"

and went on eating ; and May-bird broke out a round pane of the window for herself, and Roland tore off a large piece of cake from the roof, when the door opened, and a little old fairy came gliding out. At this May-bird and Roland were so frightened, that they let fall what they had in their hands. But the old lady shook her head, and said, " Dear children, where have you been wandering about ? come in with me ; you shall have something good." So she took them both by the hand, and led them into her little hut, and brought out plenty to eat,—milk and pancakes, with sugar, apples, and nuts ; and then two beautiful little beds were got ready, and May-bird and Roland laid themselves down, and thought they were in heaven : but the fairy was a spiteful one, and had made her pretty sweetmeat house to entrap little

children. Early in the morning, before they were awake, she went to their little beds, and when she saw the two sleeping and looking so sweetly, she had no pity on them, but was glad they were in her power. Then she took up Roland, and put him in a little coop by himself ; and when he awoke, he found himself behind a grating, shut up as little chickens are : but she shook May-bird, and called out, " Get up, you lazy little thing, and fetch some water ; and go into the kitchen and cook something good to eat : your brother is shut up yonder ; I shall first fatten him, and when he is fat, I think I shall eat him."

When the fairy was gone, the little girl watched her time and got up and ran to Roland, and told him what she had heard, and said, " We must run away quickly, for the old woman is a bad fairy, and will kill us." But Roland said, " You must first steal away her fairy wand, that we may save ourselves, if she should follow." Then the little maiden ran back and fetched the magic wand, and away they went together ; so when the old fairy came back, she could see no one at home, and sprang in a great rage to the window, and looked out into the wide world (which she could do far and near), and a long way off she spied May-bird running away with her dear Roland ; " You are already a long way off," said she ; " but you will still fall into my hands." Then she put on her boots, which walked several miles at a step, and scarcely made two steps with them, before she overtook the children : but May-bird saw that the fairy was coming after them, and by the help of the wand turned her dear Roland into a lake, and herself into a swan which swam about in the middle of it. So the fairy set herself down on the shore, and took a great deal of trouble to decoy the swan, and threw crumbs of bread to it ; but it would not come near her, and she was forced to go home in the evening, without taking her revenge. And May-bird changed herself and

her dear Roland back into their own forms once more, and they went journeying on the whole night until the dawn of day ; and then the maiden turned herself into a beautiful rose, which grew in the midst of a quickset hedge, and Roland sat by the side and played upon his fiddle.

The fairy soon came striding along. "Good fiddler," said she, "may I pluck the beautiful rose for myself?" "O yes," answered he ; "and I will play to you meantime." So when she had crept into the hedge in a great hurry to gather the flower, the fiddler beginning to play, she was compelled to dance whether she would or not. Such was the wonderful power of the music that she was forced to dance a merry jig, on and on without any rest. And as he did not cease playing a moment, the thorns at length tore the clothes from off her body, and pricked her sorely, and there she stuck quite fast.

Then May-bird was free once more ; but she was very tired, and Roland said, "Now I will hasten home for help, and by and by we will be married." And May-bird said, "I will stay here in the meantime and wait for you ; and, that no one may know me, I will turn myself into a stone and lie in the corner of yonder field." Then Roland went away, and May-bird was to wait for him. But Roland met with another maiden, who pleased him so much that he stopped where she lived, and forgot his former friend ; and when May-bird had stayed in the field a long time, and found he did not come back, she became quite sorrowful, and turned herself into a little daisy, and thought to herself, "Someone will come and tread me under foot, and so my sorrows will end." But it so happened that as a shepherd was keeping watch in the field he found the flower, and thinking it very pretty, took it home, placed it in a box in his room, and said, "I have never found so pretty a flower before." From that time everything thrived wonderfully at the shepherd's house :

when he got up in the morning, all the household work was ready done ; the room was swept and cleaned ; the fire made, and the water fetched : and in the afternoon, when he came home, the table-cloth was laid and a good dinner ready set for him. He could not make out how all this happened ; for he saw no one in his house : and although it pleased him well enough, he was at length troubled to think how it could be, and went to a cunning woman who lived hard by, and asked her what he should do. She said, "There must be witchcraft in it ; look to-morrow morning early, and see if anything stirs about in the room ; if it does, throw a white cloth at once over it, and then the witchcraft will be stopped." The shepherd did as she said, and the next morning saw the box open and the daisy come out : then he sprang up quickly and threw a white cloth over it : in an instant the spell was broken, and May-bird stood before him ; for it was she who had taken care of his house for him ; and as she was so beautiful he asked her if she would marry him. She said, "No," because she wished to be faithful to her dear Roland ; but she agreed to stay and keep house for him.

Time passed on, and Roland was to be married to the maiden that he had found ; and according to an old custom in that land, all the maidens were to come and sing songs in praise of the bride and bridegroom. But May-bird was so grieved when she heard that her dearest Roland had forgotten her, and was to be married to another, that her heart seemed as if it would burst within her, and she would not go for a long time. At length she was forced to go with the rest ; but she kept hiding herself behind the others until she was left the last. Then she could not any longer help coming forward ; and the moment she began to sing, Roland sprang up, and cried out, "That is the true bride ; I will have no other but

her ;" for he knew her by the sound of her voice ; and all that he had forgotten came back into his mind, and his heart was opened towards her. So faithful May-bird was married to her dear Roland, and there was an end of her sorrows ; and from that time forward she lived happily till she died.

XXXI

STORY OF A SON WHO SET OUT TO LEARN TO SHIVER

A FATHER had two sons, the eldest of whom was prudent and clever, and able to do everything ; while the younger was dull, unable to understand or learn, and people who saw him said that he would prove a great burden to his father. When anything was required, it was always the elder who was called upon ; yet if his father asked him late, or in the night, to fetch something, and the way lay through the churchyard or some lonely spot, he would reply, " Oh no, father ! I cannot go there, it makes me shiver ;" for he was afraid. In the winter evenings, likewise, when people sat by the fire and told stories which made the hair stand on end, the listeners would sometimes exclaim, " It makes me shiver." The youngest sat in a corner and listened with the others, but could never comprehend what they meant : " They are always saying, ' I shiver, I shiver : ' I never shiver ; that must be an art of which I understand nothing."

Now it happened that his father said to him one day, " Listen, you in the corner, you are tall and strong, and must learn something that will earn you your bread. See how your brother strives ; but everything is thrown away on you." " Ay, father," replied he, " I am quite ready to learn something, and if it could be managed, I should like to learn to shiver, for I understand nothing at all about it." The eldest son laughed when he heard this, saying to himself, " What a simpleton my brother is ;

nothing will ever be made of him." The father sighed too, and said, "You may learn to shiver, but that will never enable you to earn your bread, my son."

Soon after this the sexton paid them a visit, and the father complained to him of the stupidity of his son, and related to him instances of his incapacity and want of intelligence. "Now only think," continued he, "when I asked him how he would earn his bread, he expressed a desire to learn to shiver." "If there be nothing more," said the sexton, "he can learn that with me. Send him to me, I will soon polish him up." The father was much pleased at the proposal, as he thought his son would be in the way of improving. So the sexton took him into his house to toll the bell. After a day or two, the sexton waked him up at midnight, bidding him rise and go up the church steeple to ring the bell. "You shall now learn what it is to shiver," said the sexton to himself. So he secretly repaired to the steeple, and when the youth had ascended, and turned himself round to catch the rope, he saw on the stairs opposite the sound-hole a white figure. "Who is that?" cried the boy; but the figure gave no answer, and neither moved nor spoke. "Answer directly," repeated the lad, "or go away; you have nothing to do here at night." The sexton, however, remained motionless, that the boy might believe it was a ghost. Again he cried for the third time, "What do you want? Speak, if you are a true man, or I will knock you down the stairs." The sexton thought he would never attempt this, and therefore uttered no sound, but stood there as if he were made of stone. The boy called out once more, but in vain; he therefore made a spring at the ghost, who rolled down ten or twelve steps into a corner at the bottom, where he lay very quietly. The bell was then rung, and the boy proceeded home, going to bed without saying a word of what had happened. The sexton's wife

waited long for her husband, but as he did not come, she began to be afraid of some mischance, so she went and waked the lad to inquire if he had seen his master. "No," replied he, "but somebody stood in the sound-hole, opposite the stairs in the steeple, and as he would neither answer nor go away when I spoke to him, I thought it was some rogue, and pushed him down the stairs. Go and see who it is ; I should be very sorry if it were the sexton." The wife ran instantly to the church, and there, in a corner, she found her husband groaning, for he had broken his leg

She assisted him to reach home, then hastened with loud exclamations to the house of the boy's father. "Your son," said she, "has brought a great misfortune upon us, he has thrown my husband down the stairs from the steeple, and broken his leg. Fetch the good-for-nothing fellow away from our house." The father was frightened, ran to the house directly, and began to scold his son. "What wicked tricks are these that I hear of," said he ; "Satan himself must be in you " "Father," returned the boy, "listen to me. I am innocent. He stood before me in the night like somebody about to do wrong. I did not know who it was, and warned him thrice to speak or to go away." "Ah !" said the father, "you are nothing but a trouble to me ; go out of my sight ; I will look upon you no more." "Very well, father, I am ready to go, only wait until it is light. I will then go out and learn to shiver, and I shall have the means of keeping myself." "Learn what you like," returned the father, "it is the same to me ; there are fifty crowns for you, go into the world, but tell nobody who you are and who your father is, for I am ashamed of you." "Certainly, father, if you wish it so ; if you require nothing more. I can easily observe what you say," replied the son.

When day began to break, the lad put the fifty crowns

into his pocket and took his way by the highroad, saying continually to himself, "Oh ! if I could shiver ; oh ! if I could shiver." A man passing by heard what the boy repeated to himself, and when he had gone a little further, so that the gallows might be seen, he said to him, " Look, there is the tree where seven men have kept their wedding with the ropemaker's daughter, and now are learning to fly ; sit beneath it, and wait until night comes, and you will soon learn to shiver." " If nothing else is to be done that is very easy," answered the youth ; " and if I learn so quickly to shiver, you shall have my fifty crowns ; so come back early to me to-morrow morning."

The youth went to the gallows, placed himself beneath and waited until the evening ; but, as it was frosty, he lighted a fire, and towards midnight the wind became so cold that even the fire would not keep him warm. The wind shook the hanged men, and they struck against each other as they moved from side to side. So the youth said to himself, " If I freeze down here by the fire, how the people up there must chatter with the cold and freeze ;" and, being compassionate, he raised the ladder which was near, ascended it, and untying one after the other, brought all seven down. He then stirred and blew the fire, and placed them all around, that they might warm themselves ; but they sat as he placed them, and did not stir ; so that the fire singed their clothes. Upon this he spoke to them, saying, " Take care of yourselves, or I will hang you all up again ;" but as the dead men could not hear, they remained silent, and their rags continued to burn. This made him very angry, and he said, " If you will not take care of yourselves, I cannot help you. I do not intend to be burnt with you." He then carried them all up and hung them up in a row as they were before. He then seated himself by his fire and slept soundly. The next morning the man came to him in expectation of receiving

the fifty crowns, and said, "Well, now do you know what shivering means?" "No," replied the lad, "how should I know? The people up there would not open their mouths, and were so stupid that they would have allowed the rags to be burnt off their backs." Upon this the man saw clearly that he should not carry off the fifty crowns, so he went away, saying to himself, "I never saw such a fellow in my life."

The young man now pursued his way, and began as before to say aloud, "Oh! if I could only shiver; oh! if I could only shiver." A driver, who was walking behind him, heard the words, and asked, "Who are you?" "I do not know," replied the youth. "Who is your father?" "I may not tell you that." "What are you grumbling to yourself then?" said the man. "I was wishing I could shiver, but nobody can teach me." "Do not talk such nonsense," said the driver; "come with me, and I will provide for you." The youth accordingly accompanied the man, and in the evening they came to an inn, where they proposed to pass the night. Upon entering the house, he again repeated aloud, "If I could only shiver! if I could only shiver!" The host heard this, laughed, and said, "Certainly, if you have any desire to do so, a good opportunity is offered here." "Pray be silent," interrupted the hostess, "so many silly people have already lost their lives; it would be a pity if those bright eyes should behold the daylight no more." But the youth entreated, saying, "If it were ever so hard I will learn, for that is the reason I have left home." He continued his entreaties, and left the host no peace until he had related to him, that not far from the inn stood an enchanted castle, and any one passing three nights there could not fail to understand what shivering was. The king had promised his daughter for a wife to anyone courageous enough to venture to do this, and she was the most beautiful princess the sun ever

shone upon. Besides this, great treasures were hidden in the castle, watched over by the evil spirits, which treasure would then be set free, and become the property of the successful watcher. Many had already undertaken to watch three nights in the enchanted castle, and had entered for that purpose, but not one had ever returned. The next morning the youth went to the king, and requested permission to pass three nights in the castle. His majesty looked at him, and feeling pleased with his manner, told him he might ask for three things to carry with him into the castle, but, added he, "they may not be living things." "Then," rejoined the youth, "I will have a fire, a cooper's bench with the knife, and a turning-lathe." The king commanded all three things to be taken by day into the castle, and when the night came the youth went thither, made himself a bright fire in one of the apartments, placed the bench near him, and seated himself on the turning-lathe. "Oh," said he, "if I could only shiver! but I shall never learn it here." Towards midnight, he wished to stir and make up his fire, but as he was blowing it, suddenly he heard, out of one corner, the exclamation, "Oh! man! how cold we are!" "You foolish creatures!" cried he, "what are you screaming about? if you are cold; come and sit by the fire and warm yourselves." Scarcely had he said this, than two immense black cats came forward with a spring, placed themselves one on each side, and looked fiercely at him with their fiery eyes. In a little time, having warmed themselves, they said, "Comrade, shall we play at cards?" "Why not?" replied the youth, "but show me your paws first." They instantly stretched out their claws. "Oh," said he, "what long nails! wait, I must cut them first." Then seizing them by their necks, he took them to the bench and then screwed them firmly. "Now I have seen your fingers," said he, "I have no mind to play at cards

with you," so he struck them both dead and cast them through the window into the moat. But when he had disposed of these two, and wished to settle in peace by his fire, there came out of every hole and corner black cats and dogs without number, each with a red-hot chain attached to it ; they trod on his hearth, and over his fire, dispersing the embers, and seemed to have a design to extinguish it altogether. He looked quietly on for some time, but finding their boldness increase, he seized his carving-knife, and shouted, " Begone, rabble !" striking at the same time both right and left. Some rushed away, but many were killed and afterwards thrown into the water. Returning to his fire, he blew upon the sparks until it revived, and sitting down he warmed himself. While so seated, he could no longer keep his eyes open, and he felt the strongest inclination to sleep ; he therefore looked around, and discovering in the corner a large bed, did not hesitate to take possession of it. Just as his eyes began to close, the bed began to move of itself, and carried him all round the castle. " Very good," said he, " all the better." So the bed continued to travel as if six horses were harnessed to it, over thresholds, up and down stairs, until suddenly it ended by all being turned topsy-turvy, and there he lay, with a mountain as it were upon him. But he cast coverings and pillows aside, extricated himself from the confusion, and saying, " Now any one may ride for me that likes," laid himself down by his fire and slept until day. In the morning came the king, and when he saw him lying on the ground he thought the ghosts had killed him, and that he was dead ; so he said, " What a pity the handsome fellow is gone !" The youth heard this, jumped up directly, and said, " Indeed, it is not quite so bad as that." The king was very much astonished, but joyful, and inquired how he had passed the night. " Very well," he answered, " one night is now

over, the two others will pass too " When he came to the inn, the host opened his eyes wide " I never thought to see you living again," said he ; " but have you now learnt what it is to shiver ?" " No," said he, " it is all in vain, I wish someone would only tell me what it is."

The second night he again went to the old castle, sat by the fire, and began his old song of, " If I could only shiver !" As midnight approached, a dreadful noise of tumbling was heard—first distant, then louder and nearer, again more subdued, then with a loud cry half a man tumbled down the chimney right before him. " Hallo !" cried the youth, " we want another half, this is too little." Then the noise began again, and after much knocking and howling, the other half fell down. " Wait," cried he, " let me blow up the fire a little." When he had done so, and could see around, he found the two parts had come together, and a hideous man sat in his place. " I did not bargain for that," said the youth ; " the bench is mine." The man wished to push him away, but the youth had no mind to be so treated, so he pushed the man with all his strength off his feet, and again took his place. More men now came down, one after the other, who fetched nine bones and two skulls, set them up, and prepared to play at bowls. The youth felt the strongest inclination to join in their game, and cried out, " My merry men, can I play with you ?" " Oh, yes," replied one, " if you have any money." " Plenty of that," returned the youth, " but your balls are not round." Then he took the skulls, placed them in his lathe, and made them round, saying, as he delivered them back, " They will roll better now, so let us set to work." They then all began to play, and he lost some of his money ; but as the clock struck twelve, the entire party, bowls and all, vanished from before his eyes. The next morning the king came as before, to inquire what he had been doing. " I have

been playing at bowls," said the youth, "and lost my money." "Have you not then shivered?" returned the king. "Shivered!" said the simpleton; "I was never more merry in my life. Oh, that I could only find out what it meant!"

The next night he seated himself again upon his bench, and was repeating to himself in a melancholy tone, "Oh! if I could only shiver!" when six tall men entered, carrying a coffin between them. Upon seeing what they carried, "This is certainly my cousin," said he, "who died a day or two ago;" so he beckoned, saying at the same time, "Come, cousin; come!" Upon which the men placed the coffin on the ground, and he approaching took off the lid, and saw that a dead man lay within. He felt his face, but it was cold as ice. "Wait!" exclaimed he, "I will warm you a little." So, going to the fire, he warmed his own hands, and then placed them on the man's face, but it remained as cold as ever. Then taking the dead man out, he placed him by the fire, rubbing his limbs in order to restore circulation to the blood, but ineffectually. He then thought of another mode, and placing him on the bed, covered him up, and lay down himself beside the body. After a while the dead man became warm, and began to stir. Then the youth said, "Now, cousin, have I not warmed you at last?" But the dead man set up and said, "Now I will strangle you!" "What!" returned the other, "is this your gratitude? You shall go back instantly into your coffin." So he lifted him up, cast him in the coffin, and shut the lid down; then the six men appeared, raised the coffin, and bore it away. "If I stay all my life here," said the youth, "I shall never shiver."

At this moment a gigantic man entered, of most hideous aspect; he was old, and had a long white beard. Addressing himself sternly to our hero, he said, "Mortal,

soon shalt thou learn to shiver, for thou shalt die." "Not so fast," returned the other; "if I am to die, you must have my consent first." But the monster said, with a grim smile, "I do not think that at all necessary; I can easily kill you." "Softly, softly," said the youth, "I am as strong as you, perhaps stronger." "That we shall soon see," replied the old man; "if you prove stronger than I, you shall go free; come, let us try." He then conducted him through a dark passage to a smith's fire or forge, seized an axe, and with one blow struck one of the anvils into the ground. "I can do better than that," said the other, and went towards the other anvil; the old man placed himself near to observe what was taking place, and his white beard hung down. Then seizing an axe, with one blow, the youth split the anvil, and fastened the old man's beard at the same moment in the cleft. "Now I have you fast," said he, "and you shall die." Taking up an iron rod, he struck him several blows, until he shrieked out, begging him to cease, and he would make him rich for the rest of his days. The youth then extricated his axe and set the old man free, who conducted him back to the castle, and showed him in a cellar three chests full of gold. "Take these," said he; "one is for the poor, one for the king, and the third for thee." At that moment, the clock struck twelve, and the ghost vanishing, the youth found himself in utter darkness. "I will soon find my way out, however," said he; and he groped about till he found himself in the old chamber, where he slept contentedly by his fire until the morning. The king did not fail to appear, with the old inquiry. "I know nothing more about shivering," said the youth, "but I have seen my cousin, and an old man with a beard came, who showed me plenty of gold in the cellar, but said not a word of shivering." Then the king took him by the hand, and said, "You have delivered the castle from the

evil spirits, and you shall marry my daughter." "That is all very pleasant," returned the other, "but shall I never be able to learn to shiver?" The gold was now brought up, and the marriage celebrated; but although the young king was very happy with his bride, he was continually repeating his old song, "Oh, if I could shiver!" which, at last, began to annoy his wife; but her waiting-woman said, "With your permission, I will soon find a way to teach him to shiver." On gaining her mistress's consent, she went to the brook which ran through the garden, and got a tub full of gudgeons. At night, when the young king had retired to rest, the queen withdrew the covering, and threw the entire contents of the tub on him, so the little fish splashed about all over him, which made him wake up with a start, exclaiming, "My dear wife, what makes me shiver so? Oh! oh! oh! Now I know what shivering means."

XXXIII

THE TWELVE BROTHERS

THERE was once a king and a queen, who lived happily together, and had twelve children, but they were all boys. The king said one day to his consort, "If the thirteenth child prove a girl, all the twelve boys shall die, that her wishes may be greater, and that she may inherit the kingdom." Twelve coffins were accordingly made, and prepared even to the cushion, and then placed in a secure chamber, the key of which the king delivered to the queen, charging her to say nothing of the matter to anyone. The mother was very unhappy : she sat and grieved the whole day, so that her youngest son, whom she had called Benjamin, and who was always with her, wondered, and said, "Dear mother, why are you so sad ?" "Dearest child," replied the queen, "I dare not tell you." But he left her no peace, until she had unlocked the chamber and showed him the twelve coffins, adding, "My dear Benjamin, these coffins have been made by your father's orders for you and your eleven brothers ; in case I should have a daughter, you will all be put to death and buried therein." While saying this she wept bitterly, and was inconsolable ; but the boy replied, "Dearest mother, weep not, we will help ourselves and all go away." After reflecting a moment, the mother said, "This shall you do : go with your eleven brothers into the wood, and let one mount the highest tree he can find, and remain always on the watch, looking towards the tower of the

palace. If I have a little son, I will order them to display a white flag, as a sign that you may securely return; but if a daughter, a red flag will appear, and then fly as quickly as you can, and may Heaven protect you. Every night I will rise and pray for you,—in the winter, that you may have fire to warm you, and in summer, a shelter from the heat."

After blessing all her sons, they departed as she bade them into the wood. They kept watch by turns on the top of the highest tree, and looked for the flag. After eleven days had passed, and it was Benjamin's turn to watch, he saw a flag displayed, but it was not a white, as they hoped, but a red one, which announced the unwished-for event. When the brothers heard the intelligence they were filled with rage, and said, "Shall we for one girl all suffer death? We swear to avenge ourselves for such injustice, and that when once we find a girl her red blood shall flow." They then plunged deeper into the wood, and quite in the midst, where it was almost dark, they found a miserable little empty hut. "Here will we dwell," said they, "and you, Benjamin, being the youngest and weakest, shall stay at home and keep house, while the others go out to procure food." This was readily found in the wood, where they shot hares and deer, also pigeons and other birds fit for food, and bringing it to Benjamin, upon him devolved the charge of preparing it for the party. Thus they lived all together in the little hut for ten years, and the time by no means appeared long to them.

The queen's little daughter, in the meantime, had also grown older, and proved of excellent disposition, as well as beautiful to look at, and had a golden star on her brow. One day, when there was a large wash, she saw twelve shirts drying, and asked her mother whose they were, "for," said she, "they are much too small for my father."

With a heavy heart the queen replied, "Dearest child, they belong to your twelve brothers." "Where are my twelve brothers?" returned the child; "I have never heard of them." "Alas! I know not; perhaps wandering in the world," replied the queen. Then leading the princess to the chamber, she showed her the twelve coffins. "These," said she, "were intended for your brothers, but they secretly departed before you were born," and she related further all that had occurred on the occasion. "Weep not, dear mother," said the maiden, "I will go forth and seek my brothers."

The princess then took the twelve shirts and departed, and, as it chanced, took her way through the very wood frequented by the king's sons. She journeyed the whole day, and towards evening came to the hut. Upon entering she found only a young lad, who, addressing her, inquired whence she came and where she was going, for he was astonished at her beauty, her royal apparel, and the star upon her brow. To this she replied, "I am a king's daughter, and seek my twelve brothers, and will go as far as the heavens are blue but I will find them." She then showed him the twelve shirts that belonged to them. Benjamin at once saw that his sister stood before him, so he said, "I am Benjamin, your youngest brother," which caused her to weep for joy at so soon discovering the object of her search. They embraced each other with great tenderness, but Benjamin said, "Dear sister, there is still a drawback to our happiness: we had determined that every maiden we met should die, because we were obliged to forsake our kingdom on account of a girl. "I will willingly die," replied she, "if I can thereby set my twelve brothers at liberty." "No," replied he, "you shall not die; place yourself under this little tub until the eleven brothers come, and I make some arrangement with them." She did as he required, and at night

all the others returned from hunting, and sat down to table. While they were eating, they asked if anything had happened, to which Benjamin replied, "Do you not know?" "No," said they. "What!" returned he, "have you been out in the wood all day, while I have remained at home, and yet know more than you?" "Tell us, tell us," cried they. "Promise me then," said he, "that the first maiden that meets us shall not be killed." "Well," said they all, "she shall be safe, only tell us what you know." "Then," said Benjamin, "our sister is here;" and raising the tub, the king's daughter came forth in her royal robes, with the star on her brow, and was so beautiful, tender, and kind that they rejoiced greatly, and embraced her with much love.

After this she remained at home, and helped Benjamin with the work. The eleven went out as before to obtain game of all kinds, but Benjamin and his sister remained at home to prepare the food. They brought in wood for the fire, collected herbs in the wood, cooked, and had the food always ready when the eleven returned. She also kept the hut in order, made the little beds, and was so useful that the brothers were always contented, and lived very happily with her. One day the two left at home had prepared an excellent feast, and when the brothers returned and they were all together, they sat down, ate and drank, and were full of mirth.

Now, a small garden surrounded the hut, and as twelve beautiful white lilies chanced to be at this time in bloom therein, the maiden, thinking to please her brothers, plucked the twelve flowers, in order to present one to each; but at the moment she did this, the twelve brothers were changed into twelve ravens, and took their flight into the wood, the hut and the little garden vanishing at the same time. In the greatest alarm the poor girl looked around, upon finding herself alone in the wood, and per-

ceived an old woman standing near her, who thus addressed her. "My child, what have you done? Why could you not leave the white lilies? they were your twelve brothers, who are now for ever changed into ravens." "Alas!" said the maiden, "is there no way of restoring them to their own shape?" "No," returned the old woman, "none; for there is but one mode in the world, and that is so difficult that it is indeed useless even to mention it. You must remain dumb during a space of seven years; you may neither speak nor laugh; one single word spoken, or a single hour wanting of the seven years, will suffice to destroy the efficacy of all you have hitherto done in behalf of your brothers, and they must die." The maiden then said to herself, "I shall certainly set my brothers free;" and having sought a lofty tree, she took her place in it, spun incessantly, and neither laughed nor spoke. Now it happened that a king was hunting in the wood with a large hound; the dog followed the scent to the tree, and then sprang around it, barking violently and refusing all the attempts of the huntsmen to draw him from the place. The king came to the spot, and seeing the beautiful princess, with the golden star on her brow, he was so charmed with her beauty that he eagerly proposed to her to become his consort. She returned no answer, but assenting by a nod, the king ascended the tree, bore her in safety to the ground, then placing her on his horse conducted her home. There the marriage was celebrated with great pomp and splendour, but the bride neither laughed nor spoke a word. The king and queen lived together very happily for the space of two years, but at the end of that time the king's mother, who was a very evil-minded woman, began to calumniate the young queen, saying, "The woman you have taken as your wife is evidently nothing better than a beggar-girl, and who knows what evil ways she privately pursues?"

If she is dumb and cannot speak she might yet laugh, but they who cannot laugh must undoubtedly have a bad conscience." At first the king would neither listen to nor believe what the old woman said, but she persevered so continually, and accused her of so many bad things, that at last the king was induced to condemn the young queen to death upon very untrue evidence.

A large fire was accordingly kindled in the court of the palace, for the purpose of consuming her. The king stood at an open window, grieving deeply at the fate that awaited one he still loved so greatly. The queen was bound to a stake, and the fire already encircled her with tongues of flame ; this, however, was precisely the moment that the seven years expired, and a rushing sound was heard in the air. This proceeded from twelve ravens, who, approaching the spot, settled on the ground, and the instant they alighted were restored to their original shape. The twelve brothers instantly scattered and extinguished the fire, set their sister at liberty, and embraced her tenderly. Being restored to speech, she at once related to the king all that had befallen her, and the cause of her neither speaking nor laughing. The king rejoiced greatly when assured of her innocence, and they thenceforward lived in uninterrupted harmony ; but the wicked step-mother was found guilty of falsely accusing the queen, and being thrown into a vessel filled with boiling oil and poisonous snakes, died a miserable death.

XXXIV

RAPUNZEL

THERE was once a man and his wife, who had long vainly wished for a child ; but at last they hoped their prayers were about to be granted. Now, these people had, at the back of their house, a small window, which looked into a beautiful garden, full of the most lovely plants and flowers, but surrounded by high walls. One day the woman stood at this window, looking into the garden, and saw a bed filled with the most beautiful rampions, which looked so fresh and green, that she felt the greatest desire to eat of these said rampions. This increased every day, and as she knew it was impossible to procure any, she fell away, and became daily thinner and paler. This alarmed her husband, and he inquired of her what was the matter, that she seemed so miserable ? “ Alas ! ” said she, “ if I cannot obtain some of the rampions, which grow in the garden behind our house, I shall die.” The man, who loved his wife greatly, said to himself, “ Rather than my wife should die, it would be better to obtain for her some of the rampions—let it cost what it may.” In the dusk of the evening he accordingly got over the wall of the magician’s garden, snatched hastily a handful of rampions, and brought them to his wife, who made them into a salad, and ate it greedily ; but it pleased her so much, that she found the following day that her desire was three times as great as before, and that if they were to have any peace, her husband must once

more venture into the garden. This he did, in the dusk of the same evening, but without the good fortune that attended his former attempt ; for before he had reached the top of the wall on his return, he saw the magician standing before him. "How is it that you venture," said she, "like a thief into my garden, and steal my rampions ?—evil shall betide you for this." "Alas !" replied the man, "pray be merciful—for I have only acted so from strong necessity ; my wife saw your rampions from the window, and felt so strong a desire for them, that she must have died had it not been gratified." This appeared, in some degree, the displeasure of the magician, and she said, "If it be as you say, I will bestow the rampions upon you as frequently as you please, but upon one condition—you shall give me the child, of which you will shortly be the parents. This will be greatly for the child's advantage, and I will tend it as a mother." The man, in his fright, promised everything ; so, shortly after, when the child was born, the magician appeared immediately, gave it the name of Rapunzel, and took it away with her.

Rapunzel became the most lovely child that the sun ever shone upon ; and when she was twelve years old, the magician shut her up in a tower, which was in a wood : there were neither steps nor door to it, and only a very small window at the top ; and when the magician desired to enter, she placed herself beneath, and cried, "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let your hair down to me !" Now, Rapunzel had splendid long hair, as bright and fine as gold, and when she heard the magician's voice, she unbound her tresses, and winding them around a hook in the window-frame, to secure herself from a sudden descent, she then allowed the remainder to hang from the window, to the length of twenty ells ; and by this the old woman was accustomed to enter the tower.

After two or three years, it chanced that the king's son, in riding through the wood, passed by the tower, and heard a voice singing so enchantingly, that he was compelled to stop and listen. It was Rapunzel, who thus amused herself in her solitary abode, and whose sweet voice equalled that of the choristers of the grove. The prince sought in vain for a door by which to enter, and returned home disconsolate ; but the voice had so deeply touched his heart, that he every day rode to the wood to listen to it. One day, standing behind a tree, he saw the magician approach, heard the words "Rapunzel ! Rapunzel ! let down your hair," and saw the locks descend for the old woman's entrance into the tower. "If that is the ladder by which they ascend, I will try my luck too," said the king's son. Accordingly, the next day, as it began to grow dark, he went to the tower, and cried, "Rapunzel ! Rapunzel ! let down your hair !" Instantly the hair fell down, and the prince ascended.

Rapunzel's terror was great, when she first saw a man enter, never having seen such a being before ; but as the prince spoke very kindly to her, and told her what an impression her charming voice had made on his heart, so that he had no rest, until he resolved to make every effort to see the fair songstress, she became more tranquil ; and when he asked her to become his wife, seeing that he was young and handsome, she said to herself, "He will certainly love me more than the old woman does ;" therefore she laid her hand in his, and consented. She added, "I would gladly leave this place, and follow you, but I do not know how to get down ; you must therefore bring a silken cord with you every time you come, and I will twist it into a ladder ; when it is complete, I will descend, and you shall take me with you on your horse." They agreed that until it was ready, he should come to her every evening, as the old woman came by day. In the

meantime the magician discovered nothing of their proceedings, until Rapunzel said one day, very indiscreetly, "Good mother, how is it that you are so much heavier to draw up than the young king's son? he comes up to me in a moment." "What do I hear, you wicked child?" returned the old woman; "I thought I had shut you out from all the world, and yet you have deceived me." In her anger, she seized Rapunzel by the hair, wound it several times round her left hand, then with her right grasping her scissors, ritch, ratch, the long locks all lay at their feet. In addition to this, she was so barbarous as to carry poor Rapunzel into a desert, where she could only exist in great misery and wretchedness.

The evening of the very day on which all this had taken place, the magician bound Rapunzel's locks to the hook in the window; and when the king's son came and cried, "Rapunzel! Rapunzel! let down your hair," she let them descend from above. The king's son mounted as usual by them, but found at the top, instead of his Rapunzel, the old magician, full of fury, and looking perfectly hideous. "Ah!" said she, scornfully, "you have come for your sweetheart, but the beautiful bird is no longer in the nest, and does not sing; the cats have carried her away, and will now scratch out your eyes! Rapunzel is lost for ever to you; you will never see her again." The king's son upon this was beside himself with grief, and, in his despair, leaped down from the tower. He escaped with his life, but the thorns among which he fell deprived him of his eyes, and he wandered up and down the wood, subsisting upon berries and roots, and bewailing the loss of his dear wife. Thus miserably passed several years; at last, his wanderings led him into the desert where Rapunzel was dwelling with her twin children, a son and a daughter. Hearing her voice, he thought he recognized it, and moved in the direction whence it pro-

ceeded. Upon reaching the spot, Rapunzel instantly knew him, and fell weeping on his neck. Two* of her tears moistened his eyes, and, wonderful to relate, they were instantly restored to him, and he could see as before. With feelings of joy they all set out for his dominion, where they were dutifully received, and lived hence forward in happiness and peace.

XXXV

THE BRAVE LITTLE TAILOR

ONE bright, summer morning, a little tailor sat upon his board by the window, and industriously sewed with all his might. A peasant came by, in her way down the street, crying, "Good jelly, cheap ! good jelly, cheap !" This sounded pleasantly in the tailor's ears, so he put his little head through the window, saying, " Here, my good woman ! here, you have a customer !" The woman, with her heavy basket on her head, ascended the three steps leading to the tailor's house, and was obliged to unpack all the pots for his inspection. He examined them all, took them into his hand, put his nose to them, and said, finally, " The jelly seems good ; weigh me out two ounces, good woman, or perhaps I should not mind a quarter of a pound." The woman, who had hoped for a much larger order, gave him what he required, and then went grumbling and crying away. " Now this jelly will be a blessing to me," said the tailor, " and give me strength and power." So he fetched the bread out of the closet, and cutting a large slice, spread some of his new purchase' upon it. " That will not be bad," said he ; " but I must finish my waistcoat before I have a morsel." So he laid the bread near him, continued to sew, and in his joy the stitches became every moment longer. In the meantime the smell of the sweet jelly arose, and as crowds of flies were on the walls, they were attracted by it, and descended in swarms. " Ah ! who invited you ?" asked the little tailor,

driving them away ; but the flies, not understanding the tailor's language, were not to be repulsed, and returned in greater numbers. At this, losing all patience, he looked about him for some destructive weapon, and seizing a strip of cloth, said, "Now I will give it you," at the same time laying about him in all directions, without mercy. Upon counting the number of the slain, there lay before him no less than seven dead, with outstretched legs. "What a brave fellow, you see," said he, admiring his own prowess ; "the whole town must know this." Hastily cutting himself a girdle, he stitched upon it in large letters, "Seven at one blow !" "Town !" then said he, "that is not sufficient, the whole world shall learn it," and his heart went pit-a-pat for joy, like a lamb's tail.

The tailor bound the girdle round his body, and determined to go abroad into the world, thinking the workshop far too limited a theatre for his courage. Before he abandoned it, however, he looked round the house for something to take with him, but found nothing except an old cheese and the tame pigeon, which he put into his pocket. He then started at a good pace, and being light and active, felt no weariness. The road led over a high mountain, and upon reaching its highest summit he saw a powerful giant sitting on the peak, looking quite comfortably around. The tailor approached him with confidence, and spoke to him, saying, "Good-day, comrade—you sit there and overlook the wide world ! I am on the way thither, and am going to try my fortune. Have you a mind to go with me ?" The giant looked upon the little tailor with contempt, and replied, "You ragamuffin !—you miserable beggar !" "That is as it may prove," said the tailor, unbuttoning his coat, and displaying the girdle. "Come, read there what sort of a man I am !" The giant read, "Seven at one stroke !" thought it meant men whom the



THE BRAVE TAILOR

The Gnome took the trunk on his shoulder but the Tailor seated himself on a branch

tailor had killed, and felt a little more respect for him ; yet being willing to prove him first, he took a stone in his hand and squeezed it until the water dropped from it. " Now, do that ! " said the giant, " if you pretend to be as strong as you say. " " Only that ! " said the little tailor ; " that is play ! " Saying this, he thrust his hand into his pocket, pulled out the soft cheese, and pressed it until the whey came out. " Confess, " said he, " that is still better. " The giant knew not what to say, and could hardly think the little fellow so powerful ; but he picked up a stone, and casting it into the air, it went so high that it was scarcely possible to follow it with the eye. " Now, little fellow ! " said he, " do better. " " It is very well cast, " said the tailor ; " but your stone has returned to the earth. Now, I will throw one so high, that it shall never come down again. " Putting his hand into his pocket, he drew forth the bird, and cast it in the air, which rejoicing in its liberty, rose high, flew away, and of course did not re-appear. " What do you think of that ? " asked the tailor. " You can certainly throw very well ! " returned the giant ; " but we will now see if you are able to carry something more than common. " He then led the little tailor to an enormous oak, lying on the earth, and said, " If you are strong enough, help me to carry this tree out of the wood. " " Very willingly ! " answered the little man ; " you take the trunk on your shoulder, I will raise all the branches and twigs, and carry them, and they are certainly the heaviest. " The giant took the trunk on his shoulder, but the tailor seated himself on a branch, and not being able to look round, the giant unconsciously did all the work, carrying the little tailor into the bargain. Then he sat behind, as merry and wicked as possible, whistling the air of " Three Tailors, they rode beyond the Gates ! " as if to carry such trees were child's play. The giant, however, after proceeding part of the

way, found the burthen too heavy, and could do no more, crying out, "Wait, I must let the tree fall!" The tailor sprang nimbly off, seized the tree with both arms, as if he had been carrying it, and said to the giant, "What a great fellow, and not able to carry such a tree!"

They continued their way together, and arriving at a cherry-tree growing by the wayside, the giant seized the top of the tree, where the ripest fruit hung, bent it down, gave it into the tailor's hand, and bid him eat away. But the little tailor was much too weak to hold the tree down, therefore, when the giant let go, it sprang into the air and the tailor was carried aloft with it. When he had returned to the ground unhurt, "What is this?" said the giant; "have you not strength to hold such a bush as this?" "I do not want for strength," replied the tailor; "do you think that was any feat for one who had hit seven with one stroke? I sprang over the tree, because the hunters down there are shooting in the thicket; spring over it, if you can." The giant made the attempt, but remained caught in the branches, so that the little tailor again claimed the advantage over him.

The giant now said, "As you are such a brave fellow, come into our cave, and pass the night with us." The tailor was ready, and followed him to the cave, where he found several other giants seated by the fire, each with a roasted sheep in his hand, of which he was making his supper. The little tailor looked around, and thought to himself, "It is much more roomy here than in my workshop." The giant pointed to a bed, and told him he might take possession of it for the night; but it was infinitely too big for the little tailor, so he would not lie in it, but crept into a corner. When it was midnight, and the giant supposed the tailor to be sound asleep, he took a large iron bar and struck the bed with it, until he thought he had killed the little grasshopper, and when day broke

they all went out into the wood, quite forgetting the tailor; therefore their astonishment may be conceived when they saw him shortly after coming towards them as unconcernedly and boldly as if nothing had happened. Thinking he would do nothing less than slay them all, they ran away in their fright, and the tailor saw them no more.

The little man then went on, and after travelling a long time, he came into the courtyard of a royal palace, and feeling extremely weary, he laid himself on the grass and fell asleep. While lying there, people came, examined him on all sides, and read on his girdle, "Seven at one stroke!" "Ah!" said they, "what does this great military hero want here in time of peace?—how powerful he must be!" So they went to inform the king of his arrival, and advised that, as he would be so useful and important in case war should break out, that upon no account he should be allowed to depart. The advice pleased the king, and he sent one of his courtiers to attend the little tailor's waking, and to offer him employment in the king's service. The messenger accordingly stood patiently waiting by the sleeper, until he stretched himself and opened his eyes, then fulfilled his commission. "I am here for that purpose," replied he, "and am quite ready to enter the king's service." He was accordingly received most honourably, and a magnificent dwelling appointed him.

Now, the king's generals were very envious of the little tailor, and wished him a thousand miles away. "What can be done?" said they; "if we begin a quarrel with him, and proceed to blows, his strokes will fall upon and slay seven at once—we cannot submit to this;" so they took their resolution, went in a body to the king, and demanded their dismissal. "We are not calculated," said they, "to stand on the same footing as a man who kills

seven at one blow !” The king was very sorry when he found that for the sake of one man all his old and faithful servants would leave him, wished that he had never beheld the stranger, and would willingly have got rid of him, but he did not dare to dismiss him, because he feared he would kill him and all his people, and then take possession of his kingdom. He reflected long upon the means of getting out of the difficulty, and at last thought of the following. He sent to the little tailor to inform him, that in consideration of his great fame as a hero, he was about to make the following proposal to him :—In a large wood in his dominions lurked two giants, who committed great devastations, murdering and robbing in all directions. No one dared, without risk of his life, to oppose or even come into their presence ; but if he would conquer and kill these giants, the king would bestow upon him his only daughter’s hand, with half the kingdom as a dowry ; a hundred horsemen should attend him on his expedition, and be ready to assist him. “ Well,” thought the tailor, “ for such a one as I, a king’s beautiful daughter and half a kingdom is no bad thing—I do not have such an offer every day !” So he replied, “ I will soon overcome the giants, and do not require the hundred horsemen. Surely if I am able to settle seven at one stroke, I need not fear two ?”

The little tailor set out, followed by the hundred horsemen ; but at the edge of the wood he said to them, “ Wait here for me, I shall be better able to encounter the giants alone.” Then springing into the wood, he looked about him right and left, and after a while discovered the giants ; they were lying asleep under a tree, and snored so loud that all the boughs quivered and shook. The little tailor losing no time, filled both pockets with stones, and then ascended the tree ; he then placed himself upon the branch directly over the sleepers, and let one stone after another

fall upon the breast of one of the giants. The giant sputtered and grumbled for some time, at last he awoke, pushed his companion, and said to him, "What do you hit me for?" "You are dreaming," returned the other; "I have not hit you." They laid themselves down again, and the tailor this time throw a stone on the second giant. "What is that?" cried he; "what are you throwing at me?" "I am not touching you," said the other; "you are dreaming." They grumbled and quarrelled for some time, but both being tired, they gradually ceased, and their eyes closed once more. The tailor began again, picked out the biggest stone and hit the first giant on his chest with all his might. "This is too bad!" said he, springing up like a madman, and attacking his companion; the latter defended himself in a rage, and their fury increased so, that they tore up trees, and fought therewith until they both lay dead on the ground. The tailor now descended from his lurking-place. "What a piece of good fortune," said he, "that they did not tear up the tree in which I was seated, or I must have leaped away like a squirrel!" Drawing his sword, he struck two or three violent blows on the breast of each, and then went to the horsemen, saying, "The work is done, both are wounded to death, but I have had hard work; for in their distress they tore up the trees to defend themselves; but that is all in vain when one comes like myself, who hits seven at one blow." "Are you not wounded?" inquired the horsemen. "That would be fine!" answered the tailor; "not a hair is touched." The horsemen, however, were perfectly incredulous, and rode into the wood. There they found the giants swimming in their blood, and all around lay the trees torn up by the roots.

The little tailor now claimed the promised reward; but the king repented of his promise, and considered afresh how he could get rid of the hero. "Before you marry my

daughter, and obtain half the kingdom," said he, "you must perform another feat. You must capture a unicorn which runs wild in the wood, and commits great injury." "I fear the unicorn less than I did the two giants; seven at one stroke is my motto." Taking a cord and an axe, he departed instantly in search of the unicorn, bidding his attendants wait outside the wood. He had not long to seek, the creature soon appeared, and sprang upon the tailor instantly, as if to thrust him through without loss of time. "Softly, softly," said the latter, "not so fast;" avoiding the charge, he sprang nimbly behind a tree, and the creature, slightly changing his direction, ran with violence against the tree, burying his horn in the trunk so firmly that it resisted all his efforts to extricate it, and was thus a prisoner. "The bird is mine," said the tailor, and coming round the tree, he first fastened the cord round the unicorn's neck, then with his axe released the horn from the trunk of the tree, and all being in order, led his captive to the king.

The king, however, would not yet bestow the promised recompense, and required a third proof of his courage before he concluded the marriage. The tailor must catch a wild boar which committed great depredations, and he should have the assistance of the hunters. "Well," said the tailor, "that is child's play, let us go at once;" but he would not take the hunters with him, at which they were well contented, for the wild boar had already given them such a reception that they were not very anxious to encounter him again. When the animal perceived the tailor, he rushed towards him with tusks gleaming and foaming with rage, in order to bear him to the ground; but the little tailor was too quick for him, and ran into a small chapel that was near, leaping through a window at the end; the boar was on his heels, and the man running round to the door closed it directly he saw the animal

fairly caught, for it was too heavy to be able to jump through the window as the tailor had done. The hunters were called to see the captive with their own eyes ; but the hero went at once to the king, who, whether he would or no, was now compelled to keep his promise, and deliver up both his daughter and half his kingdom ; and could he have imagined that his son-in-law was a little tailor, doubtless he would have felt still more reluctant. The marriage, however, was celebrated with much magnificence and no small rejoicing, and a king made out of a tailor.

After a time the young queen heard her consort talking to himself in his sleep, and distinguished the words, "Come, apprentices, quick, sew this waistcoat, and finish these trousers, or I will lay the yard measure over your shoulders." This considerably enlightened her as to the birth of the young man, and she complained to her father the next day, entreating his assistance in setting her free from her husband, who was, she was sure, nothing but a tailor. The king comforted her as well as he was able, and bid her leave her door open the next night. "My servants shall wait without," said he, "until he is asleep, when they will bind and carry him on board a vessel, and you shall be troubled no more by him." The young queen was much pleased to hear this ; but the king's armour-bearer, who had heard all, was much attached to the young king, and discovered to him the plot. "Very well," replied he, "I will spoil their plan." Accordingly he went to bed as usual, and when the queen thought he slept, she softly arose and opened the door, then returned to bed. But the little tailor had only feigned sleep, and began to call out with a loud voice, "Fellows, fellows, sew this jacket, and mend these trousers, or I will lay the yard measure over your shoulders. I have slain seven with one stroke, killed two giants, taken prisoner one unicorn

and one wild boar, and shall I be afraid of those who are waiting there outside the chamber-door?" When they heard the tailor speak thus, great fear seized upon them, they ran away, as if wild beasts were behind them, and not one would dare to return to touch him. So the tailor lived the rest of his days and died a king.

XXXVI

THE THREE CHILDREN OF FORTUNE

ONCE upon a time a father sent for his three sons, and gave to the eldest a cock, to the second a scythe, and to the third a cat. "I am now old," said he, "my end is approaching, and I would fain provide for you before I die. Money I have none, and what I now give you seems of but little worth ; yet it rests with yourselves alone to turn my gifts to good account. Only seek out for a land where what you have is as yet unknown, and your fortune is made."

After the death of the father, the eldest set out with his cock ; but wherever he went, in every town he saw from afar off a cock sitting upon the church steeple, and turning round with the wind. In the villages he always heard plenty of them crowing, and his bird was therefore nothing new ; so there did not seem much chance of his making his fortune. At length it happened that he came to an island where the people who lived there had never heard of a cock, and knew not even how to reckon the time. They knew, indeed, if it were morning or evening ; but at night, if they lay awake, they had no means of knowing how time went. "Behold," said he to them, "what a noble animal this is ! how like a knight he is ! he carries a bright red crest upon his head, and spurs upon his heels ; he crows three times every night, at stated hours, and at the third time the sun is about to rise. But this is not all ; sometimes he screams in broad

daylight, and then you must take warning, for the weather is surely about to change." This pleased the natives mightily ; they kept awake one whole night, and heard, to their great joy, how gloriously the cock called the hour, at two, four, and six o'clock. Then they asked him whether the bird was to be sold, and how much he would sell it for. "About as much gold as an ass can carry," said he. "A very fair price for such an animal," cried they with one voice ; and agreed to give him what he asked.

When he returned home with his wealth, his brothers wondered greatly ; and the second said, "I will now set forth likewise, and see if I can turn my scythe to as good an account." There did not seem, however, much likelihood of this ; for go where he would, he was met by peasants who had as good a scythe on their shoulders as he had. But at last, as good luck would have it, he came to an island where the people had never heard of a scythe ; there, as soon as the corn was ripe, they went into the fields and pulled it up ; but this was very hard work, and a great deal of it was lost. The man then set to work with his scythe ; and mowed down their whole crop so quickly, that the people stood staring open-mouthed with wonder. They were willing to give him what he asked for such a marvellous thing : but he only took a horse laden with as much gold as it could carry.

Now the third brother had a great longing to go and see what he could make of his cat. So he set out, and at first it happened to him as it had to the others, so long as he kept upon the main land, he met with no success ; there were plenty of cats everywhere, indeed too many, so that the young ones were for the most part, as soon as they came into the world, drowned in the water. At last he passed over to an island, where, as it

chanced most luckily for him, nobody had ever seen a cat ; and they were overrun with mice to such a degree, that the little wretches danced upon the tables and chairs, whether the master of the house were at home or not. The people complained loudly of this grievance ; the king himself knew not how to rid himself of them in his palace ; in every corner mice were squeaking, and they gnawed everything that their teeth could lay hold of. Here was a fine field for Puss—she soon began her chase, and had cleared two rooms in the twinkling of an eye ; when the people besought their king to buy the wonderful animal, for the good of the public, at any price. The king willingly gave what was asked,—a mule laden with gold and jewels ; and thus the third brother returned home with a richer prize than either of the others.

Meantime the cat feasted away upon the mice in the royal palace, and devoured so many that they were no longer in any great numbers. At length, quite spent and tired with her work, she became extremely thirsty ; so she stood still, drew up her head, and cried, “Miau, Miau !” The king gathered together all his subjects when they heard this strange cry, and many ran shrieking in a great fright out of the palace. But the king held a council below as to what was best to be done ; and it was at length fixed to send a herald to the cat, to warn her to leave the castle forthwith, or that force would be used to remove her. “For,” said the counsellors, “we would far more willingly put up with the mice (since we are used to that evil), than get rid of them at the risk of our lives.” A page accordingly went, and asked the cat, “whether she were willing to quit the castle ?” But Puss, whose thirst became every moment more and more pressing, answered nothing but “Miau ! Miau !” which the page interpreted to mean “No ! No !” and therefore carried this answer to the king. “Well,” said the coun-

sellors, "then we must try what force will do." So the guns were planted, and the palace was fired upon from all sides. When the fire reached the room where the cat was, she sprang out of the window and ran away ; but the besiegers did not see her, and went on firing until the whole palace was burnt to the ground.

XXXVII

THE TRAVELLING MUSICIANS

AN honest farmer had once an ass that had been a faithful servant to him a great many years, but was now growing old and every day more and more unfit for work. His master therefore was tired of keeping him and began to think of putting an end to him ; but the ass, who saw that some mischief was in the wind, took himself slyly off, and began his journey towards the great city, "for there," thought he, "I may turn musician."

After he had travelled a little way, he spied a dog lying by the roadside and panting as if he were very tired. "What makes you pant so, my friend?" said the ass. "Alas!" said the dog, "my master was going to knock me on the head, because I am old and weak, and can no longer make myself useful to him in hunting; so I ran away: but what can I do to earn my livelihood?" "Hark ye!" said the ass, "I am going to the great city to turn musician: suppose you go with me, and try what you can do in the same way?" The dog said he was willing, and they jogged on together.

They had not gone far before they saw a cat sitting in the middle of the road and making a most rueful face. "Pray, my good lady," said the ass, "what's the matter with you? you look quite out of spirits!" "Ah me!" said the cat, "how can one be in good spirits when one's life is in danger? Because I am beginning to grow old, and had rather lie at my ease by the fire than run about

the house after the mice, my mistress laid hold of me, and was going to drown me ; and though I have been lucky enough to get away from her, I do not know what I am to live upon." " Oh !" said the ass, " by all means go with us to the great city ; you are a good night singer, and may make your fortune as a musician." The cat was pleased with the thought, and joined the party.

Soon afterwards, as they were passing by a farmyard, they saw a cock perched upon a gate, and screaming out with all his might and main. " Bravo !" said the ass ; " upon my word you make a famous noise ; pray what is all this about ?" " Why," said the cock, " I was just now saying that we should have fine weather for our washing-day, and yet my mistress and the cook don't thank me for my pains, but threaten to cut off my head to-morrow, and make broth of me for the guests that are coming on Sunday !" " Heaven forbid !" said the ass ; " come with us, Master Chanticleer ; it will be better, at any rate, than staying here to have your head cut off ! Besides, who knows ? If we take care to sing in tune, we may get up some kind of a concert : so come along with us." " With all my heart," said the cock : so they all four went on jollily together.

They could not, however, reach the great city the first day ; so when night came on, they went into a wood to sleep. The ass and the dog laid themselves down under a great tree, and the cat climbed up into the branches ; while the cock, thinking that the higher he sat the safer he should be, flew up to the very top of the tree, and then, according to his custom, before he went to sleep, looked out on all sides of him to see that everything was well. In doing this, he saw afar off something bright and shining ; and calling to his companions said, " There must be a house no great way off, for I see a light." " If that be the case," said the ass, " we had better change

our quarters, for our lodging is not the best in the world !” “ Besides,” added the dog, “ I should not be the worse for a bone or two, or a bit of meat.” So they walked off together towards the spot where Chanticleer had seen the light ; and as they drew near, it became larger and brighter, till they at last came close to a house in which a gang of robbers lived.

The ass, being the tallest of the company, marched up to the window and peeped in. “ Well, Donkey,” said Chanticleer, “ what do you see ?” “ What do I see ?” replied the ass, “ why I see a table spread with all kinds of good things, and robbers sitting round it making merry.” “ That would be a noble lodging for us,” said the cock. “ Yes,” said the ass, “ if we could only get in :” so they consulted together how they should contrive to get the robbers out ; and at last they hit upon a plan. The ass placed himself upright on his hind-legs, with his fore-feet resting against the window ; the dog got upon his back ; the cat scrambled up to the dog’s shoulders, and the cock flew up and sat upon the cat’s head. When all was ready, a signal was given, and they began their music. The ass brayed, the dog barked, the cat mewed, and the cock screamed ; and then they all broke through the window at once, and came tumbling into the room, amongst the broken glass, with a most hideous clatter ! The robbers, who had been not a little frightened by the opening concert, had now no doubt that some frightful hobgoblin had broken in upon them, and scampered away as fast as they could.

The coast once clear, our travellers soon sat down, and despatched what the robbers had left, with as much eagerness as if they had not expected to eat again for a month. As soon as they had satisfied themselves, they put out the lights, and each once more sought out a resting-place to his own liking. The donkey laid himself

down upon a heap of straw in the yard ; the dog stretched himself upon a mat behind the door ; the cat rolled herself up on the hearth before the warm ashes ; and the cock perched upon a beam on the top of the house ; and, as they were all rather tired with their journey, they soon fell asleep.

But about midnight, when the robbers saw from afar that the lights were out and that all seemed quiet, they began to think that they had been in too great a hurry to run away ; and one of them, who was bolder than the rest, went to see what was going on. Finding everything still, he marched into the kitchen, and groped about till he found a match in order to light a candle ; and then, espying the glittering fiery eyes of the cat, he mistook them for live coals, and held the match to them to light it. But the cat, not understanding this joke, sprung at his face, and spit, and scratched at him. This frightened him dreadfully, and away he ran to the back door ; but there the dog jumped up and bit him in the leg ; and as he was crossing over the yard the ass kicked him ; and the cock, who had been awakened by the noise, crowed with all his might.' At this the robber ran back as fast as he could to his comrades, and told the captain " how a horrid witch had got into the house, and had spit at him and scratched his face with her long bony fingers ; how a man with a knife in his hand had hidden himself behind the door, and stabbed him in the leg ; how a black monster stood in the yard and struck him with a club, and how the devil sat upon the top of the house and cried out, ' Throw the rascal up here ! ' " After this the robbers never dared to go back to the house ; but the musicians were so pleased with their quarters that they took up their abode there ; and there they are, I dare say, at this very day.

XXXVIII

DAME TRUDE

THERE was once a little girl who was very wilful and pert, and when her parents bade her do anything, she never obeyed ; therefore, how could she be good ? One day, she said to her parents, " I have heard so much of Dame Trude that I will go and see her ; people say everything around her is so odd, and that she has such wonderful things in her house, therefore I feel very curious." Her parents, however, strictly forbade her to go, saying, " Dame Trude is a wicked woman, who does bad things, and if you will go, you are our child no longer." But the girl cared not for her parents' prohibition, and went to see Dame Trude. The first thing Dame Trude said to the girl when she saw her was, " Why are you so pale ?" " Ah !" she replied, and shuddered as she spoke, " I have been so frightened at what I have seen." " What have you seen ?" " I saw a black man upon your staircase." " He was the man that brings the coals." " Then I saw a green man." " That was a huntsman." " Then I saw a bright red man." " That was a butcher." " Ah, Dame Trude, I am so frightened, for I looked through the window, but did not see you, only the wicked one with flaming eyes." " Oh," said Dame Trude, " so you have seen the witch in her proper shape. You are the very person I have been long wanting and waiting for, and are come at last. Now you shall give me a light." Then she changed the girl into a block of wood, and threw her on the fire. When it was all in a bright glow, she sat down by it, warmed herself, and said, " Ah ! for once it burns clear !"

XXXIX

THE THREE MAGICAL LEAVES

THERE was once a poor man, who could no longer maintain his only son. "Then," said the son, "dear father, things are so bad that I feel I am a burthen to you. I would rather go forth and seek some mode to earn my bread." His father, thereupon, gave him his blessing, and with the greatest sorrow took leave of him. At this time the king was carrying on a war, so the youth entered his service, and went with him to the field. When they reached the seat of war, a battle took place, the danger was great, for the balls fell around like hail, and on every side his comrades lay dead or wounded ; the general likewise was slain, which intimidated his followers, and they were about to také to flight, but the young man stood forth, encouraged them by his words, and added, "We will never abandon the cause of our country." Then placing himself at their head, he led them against the enemy, whom he forced to retreat, and they were finally beaten. When the king heard of his bravery, and that he was indebted to the young man for the victory, he made him commander-in-chief, bestowed great treasures upon him, and raised him to the second dignity in the kingdom.

This king had a daughter, who was very beautiful but very eccentric, for she had taken a vow never to receive any one for her husband who would not promise, if she died before him, to permit himself to be interred with her. "If he love me with all his heart," said she, "he will have

no inclination to survive me." On the other hand she was quite ready to make him the same promise in case he died first. This singular vow had hitherto deterred all suitors, but the young man was so enchanted by her beauty, that he heeded nothing, but applied to her father for permission to marry her. "Do you know what you must promise?" asked the latter. "I must descend with her into the grave," was the answer, "if I survive; but my love is so great that I heed not the condition." The king then consented, and the marriage was celebrated with extraordinary magnificence.

For some time they lived most happily together; it then happened that the young queen fell dangerously ill, and the physicians could do nothing for her, and she died. When this took place the young king remembered and shuddered at his promise; to be interred alive was dreadful, but there was no alternative. The king had placed sentinels at every door and gate, and it was not possible to avoid his fate. The day of interment came, and he was conducted with the body into the royal vault; the attendants retired, bolting and barring the door, and he was left alone.

Near the coffin stood a table, on which four candles, four loaves of bread, and four bottles of wine stood; as soon as this supply was consumed he must perish. He now passed his time in pain and sorrow, ate a morsel of bread each day and took a mouthful of wine; nevertheless he felt death was at hand. Sitting one day, looking gloomily before him, he saw a snake crawl from a corner of the vault, and approach the body of his wife. Thinking it came to devour it, he drew his sword, saying, "As long as I have life you shall never touch it," and cut it into three pieces. After a while a second crept from the same corner, but when it found the other dead, and cut in pieces, it retreated, but returned shortly with three green leaves in its mouth. Arranging carefully the three por-

tions of the dead snake in their proper position, it placed a leaf upon each of the cuts ; the parts became instantly reunited, moved, came to life, and both hastened away. The leaves were left lying on the ground, and it occurred to the unfortunate man, who had observed all that passed, that the wonderful power of the leaves which had restored the snake to life, might possibly be equally efficacious with regard to a human being. He therefore took up the leaves, laid one on the dead woman's mouth, the others on the eyes ; scarcely was this done, than the blood began to circulate in the veins, and return to the blanched cheeks. She next opened her eyes, drew breath, and said, " Where am I ! " " You are with me, dear wife," answered the overjoyed husband, and related to her how everything had happened, and that she was restored to life. He gave her some wine and bread, and when her strength was in a measure restored she rose, went to the door, and knocked and called so long that the guard heard her, and informed the king, who himself came, opened the door, found them both living and well, and rejoiced that all misfortune was at an end. The young king, however, took possession of the three magical leaves, entrusting them to the care of a servant, saying, " Guard them carefully, and carry them always about you. Who knows upon what occasion they may be of service to us ? "

To return to the young queen : after her restoration to life a change seemed to have taken place in her. All love for her husband appeared to have left her, and when, after some time, he proposed a voyage for the purpose of seeing his old father, and went on board a ship which was to convey them, she forgot so far the love and faithfulness which had preserved her from death, as to have a wicked inclination for the captain of the ship. Accordingly one day when her husband lay asleep, she called the captain ; and, seizing the sleeping prince, between them, they cast

him over the side of the ship. When the wicked deed was accomplished, the queen said, "Now let us return home, and say he died on the passage, and I will so praise you to my father, that he will marry me to you, and declare you heir to his throne." But the faithful servant, who had secretly observed all that passed, launched a small boat from the ship, descended into it, rowed after his master, and allowed the traitors to pursue their way. He took the dead body, and by the help of the snake's leaves, which he had with him, happily restored it to life. Day and night they rowed with all their power, and their small bark flew so quickly that they arrived even before the ship. The king, astonished at their coming alone, asked what had happened; and when he heard of his daughter's wickedness, said, "I cannot believe that she is capable of such behaviour, but the truth will shortly declare itself," and bid them both conceal their arrival from everyone. Shortly afterwards the ship came into port, and the false wife appeared before her father with a troubled countenance. "Why do you return alone?" said he. "Where is your husband?" "Alas, dear father," replied she, "I come to you in great mourning, for during the voyage my husband suddenly fell ill and died, and if the good captain had not assisted me, I should have died of sorrow; he was present at his death, and can relate to you all the circumstances of it." "Well," said the king, "I will restore the dead to life;" and opening the door, bid them both enter. When the young queen saw her husband, she was thunder-struck, fell upon her knees, and begged for mercy; but the king answered, "There is none for you; he was ready to die with you, and gave you life again, but you basely murdered him in his sleep, and shall therefore meet with your just reward." She was then, together with her associate, led on board a ship pierced with holes at the bottom, and sent to sea, where it shortly sank beneath the waves.

XL

THE WHITE SNAKE

VERY long ago, there lived a king whose wisdom was famed throughout the land. Nothing was unknown to him, and it seemed as if he had secret intelligence of the most hidden things. He had a singular custom, viz., every day after dinner, when the guests had retired, a confidential servant brought in another dish. It was covered, and the bearer himself did not know what was therein ; indeed none knew, for the king never uncovered it in order to eat, until he was alone again. This had gone on for some time, when one day the servant who carried away the dish felt an invincible curiosity to see its contents ; and not being able to resist, he carried the dish into his own room. After carefully securing the door, he raised the cover, and saw a white snake lying in the dish ; and upon looking at it, he felt such a desire to taste it, that he cut a small piece, and put it in his mouth. Scarcely had it touched his tongue than he heard by his window a curious whispering of soft voices. He went to listen, and then perceived that it proceeded from the sparrows who were conversing with each other, and relating all they had seen in the woods and fields,—tasting the snake had conferred upon him the power of understanding the speech of animals.

Now it happened that, precisely on this day, the queen had lost her best ring, and suspicion had fallen on this confidential servant, as he had access to all parts of the

palace. The king sent for him, and threatened angrily that if the ring were not forthcoming the next morning, or if he could not at least furnish some information of the offender, he should be put to death. It was in vain to assert his innocence ; he was dismissed from the enraged king's presence. In his distress and embarrassment, he went down to the court, reflecting as he went upon the mode of helping himself out of his difficulty. There he saw some ducks enjoying themselves in the running water, and pluming their feathers with their bills, while they conversed comfortably with each other. The servant stood to listen to them, and heard one relate how he had been all round that morning, and found plenty of good things to eat ; to which another sorrowfully replied, that he had something uncomfortable in the chest, for in his haste he had swallowed a ring, with some fruit that lay under the queen's window. The servant seized the duck instantly by the neck, carried it into the kitchen, and said to the cook, "Kill this duck, it is very fat." "Yes," replied the cook, taking it in his hand, "he has spared no pains to get fat, and might have been roasted long ago." It was accordingly killed, and inside, as the servant expected, the queen's ring was found. He was now able to prove to the king his innocence, and the latter, wishing to make him some compensation for the injustice of his accusation, permitted him to ask any favour he would, promising him any place of honour at his court that he should choose.

The servant, however, refused all, and asked only for a horse and some money, for he had a desire to see the world, and travel about for some time. His request being granted, he set off, and came one day to a pond, when he observed three fish which were caught in a sort of pipe, and were gasping for water. Although people say fish are dumb, he perceived from their lamentations that they were

about to die, and having a compassionate heart, he alighted and threw the three captives into the water. They splashed about in their joy, and stretching out their heads, cried, "We will remember the service, and repay you for saving us." He then rode further, and after a while it seemed to him as if he heard a voice among the sand at his feet ; he listened, and heard the king of the ants complaining—"I wish people, with their awkward animals, would not step upon us ; that horse, with his heavy feet, treads all my people to death, without any mercy." Upon this he led his horse aside, and the king of the ants called to him, "We will think of you, and repay you." The road now lay through a wood, and there he saw a pair of ravens standing by their nest, and throwing out their young ones. "Get out !" exclaimed they, "we cannot satisfy you, and you are big enough to feed yourselves !" The poor creatures lay on the ground, flapped their wings, and cried, "See how helpless we are ; we are to feed ourselves, and cannot yet fly ! nothing is left for us but to die of hunger !" Then the good youth alighted, killed his horse with his dagger, and left it for food to the young ravens, who came hopping to the feast, satisfied their hunger, and said, "We will think of you, and repay you."

The servant was now obliged to trust to his own legs, and after walking a considerable distance, he came to a large town. There he found a great noise and tumult in the streets, and a man on horseback was proclaiming as follows :—"The king's daughter seeks a consort ; but whoever desires to gain the honour of her hand, must first submit to a severe trial, and should he fail of success, his life is forfeited." Attracted by the prize offered, many had already made the attempt, but, failing, had paid the forfeit of their lives. Nothing daunted by what he was told, the youth was so much dazzled by the charms of the

princess, that forgetting all risk, he appeared before the king, and proposed himself as a suitor for his daughter's hand.

Upon this they conducted him to the sea-shore, and cast a ring into the sea, before his eyes. The king then bid him descend to the bottom of the sea and fetch it again, adding, "When you rise to the surface without it, you must dive again to seek for it, and this must be repeated until your life ceases." All present then pitied the handsome youth, and retired, leaving him alone on the sea-shore. He stood there for some time considering how he should proceed, when he suddenly saw three fish swimming towards him, and perceived, to his astonishment, that they were the same whose lives he had saved. The middle one held a mussel in his mouth, which he deposited on the beach at the feet of the youth, and when the latter opened it, he discovered within it the gold ring. Full of joy, he restored it to the king, expecting that the promised reward would be conceded to him ; but the haughty princess learning that he was not of equal rank with herself, hesitated and required that he should first submit to another trial. She went into the garden, and with her own hands strewed ten sacks full of millet on the grass. "To-morrow, before the sun rises," said she, "this must all be again restored to the sacks,—not one grain must be wanting." The youth sat in the garden, and wondered how he should enter upon the undertaking. Not seeing any way to accomplish it, he remained very sad, expecting nothing less than death at break of day. As the light dawned, however, he saw, with astonishment, all the ten sacks standing by him filled. The ant king had come during the night with thousands and thousands of his people, and the grateful creatures had picked up the millet with diligence, and filled all the sacks. At the appointed time the princess entered the garden, and saw

with consternation that the youth had performed what had been allotted to him ; but she could not yet control her disinclination to the marriage, and said, "He may have accomplished two trials ; but I cannot consent to receive him for my husband until he brings me an apple from the tree of life." The youth knew not where such a tree grew, so he departed, resolved to walk as long as his legs would carry him, but without much hope of discovering what the king's daughter commanded. He prosecuted his search through three kingdoms, and towards the close of a weary day's travel, he found himself in a wood, and lying down beneath a tree, prepared to sleep. Suddenly, he heard a rustling among the branches, and a golden apple fell into his hand. At the same moment three ravens flew down, and placing themselves on his knee, said, "We are the three young ravens whom you saved from hunger ; when we were grown, we heard that you were seeking the golden apple, so we flew over the sea, to the end of the earth, where the tree of life is to be found, and have brought you the apple." Filled with joy, the young man now retraced his steps, and shortly afterwards delivered the apple to the king's daughter, who, being unable to make any further excuse, became his bride : they divided the golden apple between them, and afterwards lived together to an advanced age, in undisturbed happiness.

XLI

THE THREE LANGUAGES

IN the lovely mountainous land of Switzerland lived an old count, whose only son was so stupid, that he was unable to learn anything. His father said to him one day, "Listen, my son, I can get nothing into your head, let me strive as much as I may ; you shall now leave me, and a very clever master you shall have, that he may see what he can make of you." The youth was accordingly sent to another town, and placed with a very learned tutor for a whole year. When this period had elapsed, he returned home, and the father, after giving him a kind welcome, said, "Well, my son, what have you learnt ?" "Father," returned the youth, "I have learnt what the dogs mean when they bark." "Good gracious !" exclaimed the father, "is that all that you have learnt ? Very useful, certainly !" added he, scornfully. "I shall send you to another master, in another town." To another master he was accordingly sent, and remained with him also a year, after which he returned home. "Well, my son," asked the father, upon his arrival, "what have you learnt ?" "Father," replied the son, "I have learnt what the little birds say." This aroused the anger of the father, who cried, "Oh ! you misguided creature ! have you wasted your precious time and learnt nothing, and yet are not ashamed to appear before my eyes ? I will send you to a third master ; but, beware, for if you

learn nothing this time, I will quite discard you, and no longer consider myself your parent." With the third master the son passed another year, at the expiration of which he again came home, and the father anxiously inquired what he had learnt. "Father," returned the son, "I have this year learnt to understand frogs when they croak." The father was now unable to find words to express his displeasure; but after a time, summoning all his people, the count said, "This man is no longer my son, I cast him off entirely, and order you to take him into the wood and deprive him of life, as a useless creature." They were obliged to obey, and conducted him into the wood; but their pity for the unfortunate youth forbade their depriving him of life; therefore, they let him depart, and taking the tongue and eyes of a young animal to his father, delivered them as proofs of his son's death. The youth proceeded on his journey, and after some time came to a town, where he begged for lodging for the night. "Yes," said the governor of the town, "if you will pass the night in the old tower below, you may go there; it is, however, at the risk of your life, for it is full of wild dogs, who bark and howl continually, and at a certain time a human being must be delivered to them, whom they instantly devour. The whole town and neighbourhood are disturbed at it, but hitherto we have been able to devise no remedy." The youth, however, feared nothing, saying, "Let me go down to the barking dogs; they will do nothing to harm me, only give me something to cast to them." As he would have it no otherwise, they furnished him with food for the wild dogs, and conducted him to the tower. He entered, and, wonderful to relate, the dogs did not bark at him, but wagged their tails in a very friendly manner, leaped around him, ate what he threw to them, and did not hurt a hair of his head. The next morning, to the astonish-

ment of all, he appeared at the governor's lively and well, and said to him, "The dogs have declared to me in their own language, wherefore they haunt the tower, and inflict such injury upon the inhabitants of this land. They are enchanted, and compelled to watch a large treasure in the tower, until it is removed; then their task is ended, and they are released. The mode of doing this, I have also learned from them." All present were very happy to hear this concerning the dogs, and the governor promised the young count to give him his daughter, if he could remove the treasure. Fortunately he succeeded in his undertaking, the town was delivered from the dogs, and after a while he received the hand of the governor's lovely daughter, with whom he lived very happily. After a time they proposed to take a journey to Rome together, and took their departure in a carriage. On their way they were obliged to cross a swamp, which abounded with frogs. The young count listened to their croaking, and when he heard what they were saying, he became still and meditative, but said nothing to his wife on the subject of his musing. At last they arrived in Rome, precisely at the time the pope died, and the cardinals were in the greatest difficulty and doubt whom they should elect for his successor. They at last decided that he only should be elected to the dignity who was indicated by some special sign to be worthy of the papal chair, and at the moment they had announced their determination, the young count entered the church. Suddenly two snow-white doves appeared, and taking up their post, one on each of his shoulders, resisted all attempts made to remove them. The ecclesiastics present accepted the sign, and on the spot asked the count to be pope. The youth hesitated as to his worthiness of the dignity; but the doves persuaded him to accept it, and say "Yes." So he was consecrated and anointed, and all

had now happened that the frogs were conversing of on the way towards Rome ; for they had said he was going to be pope, and this idea it was, which had so much disturbed him. He was then obliged to chant a mass, but not knowing a word of it, the doves sat one on each side, and whispered it into his ear.

XLII

WISE ALICE

THERE was once a man who had a daughter, who was always called "Wise Alice." Being grown up, her father said, "We must think of marrying her." "Yes," returned the mother, "if somebody would only come who was willing to have her." At last a young man from a distance, named Hans, presented himself, and asked her hand, upon condition that Wise Alice should also prove very prudent and clever. "Oh!" said the father, "she has brains, I can assure you;" and the mother added, "Indeed, she can see as far into a mill-stone as most persons." "Very well!" returned Hans; "only if she is not very clever, I will have nothing to do with her." After this arrangement they all sat down to dinner; and when they had eaten, the mother said, "Alice, go into the cellar, and fetch some beer." Taking the jug down from a nail in the wall, Alice went to the cellar, rattling the cover of the jug by the way, as an amusement. When she had descended the steps into the cellar, she fetched a little stool, and placing it in front of the cask, seated herself thereon, that she might not be obliged to bend her back, and do herself any harm; then turning the tap, the beer began to run. While the jug was filling, not being willing that her eyes should be idle, she cast them around, and after much investigation discovered a pickaxe sticking in the wall, directly over her, having been left there by mistake by the bricklayers. Wise Alice

FAIRY TALES

began directly to weep, saying, "If I marry Hans, and have a son, and he grows, and we send him into the cellar to draw the beer, the pickaxe may fall upon his head, and kill him!" So she sat and wept, and screamed as loudly as she could, out of apprehension of the imaginary misfortune. The people upstairs waited for their beer, but Alice did not make her appearance; therefore the mother said to the maid, "Go down into the cellar, and see why Alice stays?" The maid went, and found Alice sitting before the cask, looking the picture of despair. "Why are you weeping, Alice?" inquired the maid. "Alas!" replied she, "ought I not to weep?—for if I marry Hans, and we have a son, perhaps when he grows big we may send him down into the cellar to draw the beer, and then the pickaxe may fall upon his head and kill him." "Ah!" said the maid, "how wise is our Alice!" so she sat down beside her, and began also to weep over the misfortune they anticipated. After a time, the maid not coming back, and the people above being thirsty, the father said to his man, "Go down into the cellar, and see what keeps Alice and the maid." The man obeyed, and when he got down, there were Alice and the maid sitting together, weeping bitterly. "What are you both crying for?" asked the new-comer. "Oh!" said Alice, "ought I not to weep? Suppose I marry Hans, and we have a son, and when he is grown we send him here to draw beer, the pickaxe may fall upon his head, and kill him!" "Oh!" said the man, "how wise our Alice is;" so he likewise seated himself, and began to cry and howl. Expecting the man's return with the beer, they waited patiently for some minutes. At length the husband said, "Pray, wife, go down and see why Alice stays." The wife went down, and found all three wailing and lamenting; and upon inquiry into the cause, Alice related her dread of the pickaxe falling upon the head of the child she

might have, if she married Hans. The mother rejoined as the others had done, "What a clever Alice is ours!" and adding herself to the party, joined in the grief. After a short time, the husband's thirst increasing, he thought he would himself inquire into the cause of the delay, and said, "I really must go and see what those people are about;" so he went, and saw them all sitting and weeping most disconsolately. "What is the matter?" said he, "why are you all weeping, while we wait for the beer?" They told him the cause, how Alice dreaded lest if she married Hans, and had a son, and sent him to draw the beer, the pickaxe might fall on his head and kill him; upon which, in admiration of his daughter's forethought, he exclaimed, "What a prudent Alice is ours!" joined the party, and he mingled his tears with the rest. For a long time Hans remained where the father had left him, but nobody returning, he thought they were expecting him in the cellar, and that he ought to go and see what was the matter. So he went down, and there sat all the five crying and lamenting with right good will. "What misfortune has happened to you all?" inquired he. "Oh, dear Hans!" returned Alice, "if we marry each other, and have a son, and he grows big, and we send him down here to draw beer, the pickaxe, which has been left sticking up there, may fall upon his head and kill him." "Well!" said Hans, "I cannot require more prudence in a wife, and therefore I will marry you." So he took her by the hand, led her upstairs, and the wedding took place.

After she had been married some time, he said to her, "Wife, I will go out to work and earn money; go you into the fields to reap corn, that we may have bread." "Certainly, dear Hans, I will do so." When Hans was gone, she cooked some good soup, and took it with her into the field. "Now," said she, to herself, "out first,

or eat first ; which shall I do ? I will eat first." So she emptied her pot of soup, and being satisfied, said again to herself, "What shall I do ? eat first, or sleep first ? I will sleep first." Lying down among the corn, she was quickly asleep. Hans, in the meantime, had long returned home, but as Alice did not make her appearance, he said, "What a prudent Alice I have got ; she is so diligent, that she does not even come home to dinner." However, as she still remained absent, and did not come back towards evening, Hans went out to see what she had reaped, but found nothing reaped, only that Alice lay in the corn and slept. Hans hastened back, and fetched a bird-net, having small bells on it, and hung it around her, she still sleeping. Then, running home, he closed and locked the house-door, and seating himself in his chair, began to work. When it was quite dark, Alice awoke, and when she arose there was a jingling, and the bells rang at every step that she took. This frightened her, and she was doubtful if she were Wise Alice, and said, "Am I, or am I not wise ?" However she could not tell what to answer, and stood long in doubt ; at last she said, "I will go home and ask if I am or am not so ; they will certainly know." She ran home, but finding the house-door locked, she knocked at the window, and asked, "Hans, is Alice at home ?" "Yes," replied Hans, "she is within." This frightened her, and she exclaimed, "Goodness ! then I am not Alice," and ran to the next house ; but the people hearing the tingling of the bells, refused to open, and she could find shelter nowhere, therefore she ran and ran out of the village, and nobody has seen her since.

XLIII

THE TABLE, THE DONKEY, AND THE CUDGEL

A LONG time ago lived a tailor, whose riches were certainly not great, for he had only three sons and one goat. But as the goat supplied them all with milk, she was justly regarded as the most valuable member of the party, and, therefore, besides having a plentiful supply of food brought home, was daily let out to the pasture, this latter being done by the sons, each in his turn. One day, the eldest took her to the churchyard, where there was abundance of grass and herbs, and allowed her to eat, and spring about, to her heart's content. In the evening, when it was time to return, he said, "Goat, have you had enough?" The goat replied :

" Yes, more than enough,
Of this nice green stuff—meh ! meh !"

" Then, come home," said the boy, taking the end of the cord into his hand, and leading her into the stable, where he fastened her up. " Well," said the old tailor, " has the goat been well fed ?" " Yes, indeed !" said the son, " she has had more than enough of the nice green stuff." But the father, willing to convince himself of the fact, went into the stable, stroked and caressed the dear creature, and said, " Goat, have you had enough ?" But the goat replied, " How should I have had enough ?

" I sprang over the ground,
Not a leaf to be found—meh ! meh !"

"What do I hear?" said the tailor, and running out, he called to his son. "You deceiver! you said the goat had had sufficient food, but you have starved her!" and in his anger, seizing his yard-measure, he hunted him forth with blows.

Next day it was the turn of the second son to attend to the wants of the creature, and he sought out a place in the garden hedge, where plenty of herbs and weeds grew which the goat entirely devoured. In the evening, when about to lead her into the stable, he said, "Goat, have you had enough?" The goat replied -

"Yes, more than enough,
Of the nice garden stuff—meh ! meh !"

"Then, come home," said the boy, and he led her into the stable and fastened her up. "Son," inquired the father, "has the goat had her proper food?" "Oh, yes!" replied the son, "she has had more than enough of the nice green stuff." But the tailor, not entirely trusting this report, went into the stable, and asked the goat if she had had sufficient. The goat answered, "How is that possible ?

"I sprang over the ground,
Not a leaf to be found—meh ! meh !"

"The good-for-nothing fellow!" exclaimed the tailor, "to allow so good a beast to hunger," and taking his yardstick, he drove the boy out with blows.

It was now the turn of the third son, and he being desirous of doing well what he had to do, procured plenty of green branches, and covered the ground with the finest leaves, letting the goat eat as much as she would. In the evening, when it was time to go home," he asked, "Goat, have you had enough?" To which she replied :

"Yes, more than enough,
Of the nice green stuff—meh ! meh !"

"Then, come home," said the boy, and leading her into the stable, he fastened her up. "Now," said the old tailor, "has the goat been well fed?" "Oh, indeed, father," replied his son, "she has eaten so much, she can eat no more." Again the tailor went to see for himself, and going to the stable, asked, "Goat, have you had enough?" But the wicked creature replied, "How can I have had enough?"

"I sprang over the ground,
Not a leaf to be found—meh ! meh !"

"Oh ! the cheats," said the old tailor, "one is just as neglectful and wicked as the other ; they shall no longer make a simpleton of me." Full of displeasure, he hastened to the youngest son, and gave him such a beating with the yardstick, that he was too glad to rush out of the house. The old tailor was now left alone with his goat, and the next morning he went into the stable, caressed the creature, and said, "Come, my dear little goat, I will myself take you to the pasture." So he took her by the cord, and led her to a thick hedge, and among briony, and those things that goats like. "There," said he, "you may now eat to your heart's content," as he left her to graze until the evening, when he said to her, "Goat, are you satisfied?" She replied :

"Yes, more than enough,
Of the nice garden stuff—meh ! meh !"

"Then, come home," said the tailor, leading her into the stable, and tying her up ; but before he went away, returning to her once more, he said, "Now for once, are you satisfied?" But the goat treated him no better, and replied, "How can I be ?"

"I sprang over the ground,
Not a leaf to be found—meh ! meh !"

When the tailor heard this, so little expected, he was quite confounded, and saw immediately that he had had no cause for driving his sons from their home. "Only wait, you ungrateful animal," exclaimed he; "to drive you away would not be sufficient, I will show you that you can never again present yourself among honest tailors." Saying this, he fetched his razors in all haste, lathered her chin and head, and shaved her as smooth as his hand; and thinking further that his yard-measure would be dishonoured by thrashing so false an animal, he fetched a whip, and gave her some good cuts, so that she was only too happy to make her escape.

When the tailor found himself quite alone in his house, he became very melancholy, and heartily wished for all his sons again, but nobody knew whither they had departed. The eldest had apprenticed himself to a carpenter, and he worked diligently and indefatigably, and when his time was out, and he was to travel in search of work, his master presented him with a table, which, to all appearance, was a very common one, made of wood in the usual way; but it possessed an excellent quality. If it was placed on the ground, and you said, "Table, be covered," the good little table was in a moment covered with a clean tablecloth, and upon it was a plate, and knife and fork, and as many dishes with roast and boiled as it could hold, besides which, a large glass, filled with red wine, sparkled in the midst, and excited very agreeable anticipations. The young apprentice thought to himself, "You have now sufficient for all your life;" so he went merrily on through the world, and troubled himself not in the least whether an inn was good or bad, and if anything was to be had at it or not. When so inclined he did without an inn altogether, but in field, wood, meadow, or wherever he had a mind, he took his table from his shoulder, placed it before him, and said, "Be covered;"

and instantly whatever he required was there. It came at last into his mind to return to his father, his anger most probably was over by this time, and with the "Table, be covered," he thought certainly to make his peace. It happened one evening, on his way home, that he came to an inn filled with guests; they bade him welcome, and invited him to take a seat among them, and to share their repast, or otherwise he would find it difficult to obtain anything. "No," answered the carpenter, "I will not take your food out of your mouths, you shall rather be my guests." They laughed at this sally, and thought he was joking with them, but he placed his wooden table in the middle of the room, and said, "Table, be covered." In a moment it was filled with dishes, far better than the host could have given them, and the odour of which was very agreeable. "Now fall to, dear friends," said the carpenter; and seeing that it was intended, they did not need asking twice, but drew near, took out their knives, and attacked boldly. What, however, was not the least part of the wonder was, that when a dish became empty, another instantly came of itself to supply its place. The host stood by, observed the whole thing, and knew not what to say; he however thought to himself, "Such a cook would be very useful in my household." The carpenter and his companions were very merry until late in the night; at last they thought of repose, and the young carpenter likewise went to bed, placing his wonderful table by the wall in his room. The host, however, could get no sleep for thinking of the table, and remembering that he had one in his lumber-room which resembled it exactly, in all respects, he fetched it softly, and exchanged it for the carpenter's table. The next morning the young man paid for his lodging, packed up his table, not in the least suspecting the trick the landlord had played him, and went his way. At noon he arrived

at his father's house, who received him with great joy. "What have you learned during your absence, my dear son?" inquired the father. "Father, I have learned to be a carpenter." "A very good trade," returned the old tailor; "but what have you brought back from your travels?" "Father, the best thing I have brought is the little table." The old man examined it closely on all sides, and then said, "That is no masterpiece; for it is an old rubbishing table." "But it is a 'Table, be covered,'" replied the son. "I have only to place it on the ground, and tell it to be covered, and it is instantly covered with an excellent meal, and a glass of wine that will make your eyes dance. Invite all our friends and relations; for once they shall have a right good feast, for the table furnishes plenty for all." When the company came, the son placed his table in the middle of the room, and said, "Table, be covered," but without the result he expected, for it remained as bare as any other table which did not understand the words addressed to it. The poor apprentice now perceived that his table had been exchanged, and felt quite ashamed that he must stand there as one guilty of falsehood. His relations ridiculed him, in revenge for having to go away without the good eating and drinking they expected, and the old father was obliged to sit down again to his bits of cloth, and sew and snip, while the son hired himself to a master carpenter.

The second son had gone to a miller, in order to learn his trade; and when his time was out, his master said, "You have behaved so well, that I shall bestow upon you a very particular kind of ass—he can neither draw, nor carry." "What is he good for, then?" asked the apprentice. "He vomits gold," answered the miller; "if you place him on a cloth, and say 'Bricklebrit,' the good beast will vomit gold money." "What a charming

thing," exclaimed the apprentice; then thanking his master very sincerely, he took his leave. When he wanted money, he had only to say "Bricklebrit" to his ass, and it rained gold; he only having the trouble of picking it up. Wherever he came, he had the best, and the dearer the better; he made no objection to the price, for his purse was always filled. After travelling about a long time, he thought he must seek out his old father, and imagined, very reasonably, that the gold ass would appease his anger, if it were not already forgotten. It happened that he arrived one evening at the same inn in which his brother had lost his valuable table: he was leading his ass, and when the host wished to take it from him and tie it up, the apprentice declined, saying, "Give yourself no trouble, I will lead my ass into the stable myself, and tie it up, I like to know where it is." The host thought this rather singular, and concluded that a person who himself tended his ass, had not much to spend; but when he took out two gold pieces, and requested the landlord to send him up something good, he opened his eyes wide, his respect for his guest rose in proportion, and he ran quickly to procure the best he could. After supper, the guest asked what was to pay, and the host, not sparing the double chinks, said he was indebted two more pieces of gold. The miller felt in his pocket, but his money was at an end. "Wait a moment, Mr. Landlord," said he, "I will go and fetch the money." So, taking the table-cloth, he departed; and the host, not being able to understand what was passing, felt curious, and slipped out after him, and as the stable-door was bolted within, he peeped through a hole. The stranger having spread the cloth under the ass, exclaimed, "Bricklebrit," and in an instant, the creature vomiting, gold fell in a shower to the ground. "Mercy upon us," said the man, "there is a way of coining ducats: such a money-

bag is a treasure indeed !" The guest, returning into the house, paid his bill, and retired to rest. The landlord, watching his opportunity, returned to the stable, led off the master of the mint, and fastened another ass in its place. Early the following morning, the miller departed with his ass, thinking he took with him his own gold ass. Towards noon, he arrived at his father's house, who rejoiced to see his son once more, and received him very kindly. "What have you become ?" inquired the old tailor. "A miller, dear father," replied the son. "And what have you brought back with you from your journey ?" "Nothing more than my ass." "There are plenty of those," rejoined the father ; "I should have much preferred a good goat." "Ycs," returned the miller, "but this is no common ass, but a gold ass : when I say 'Bricklebrit,' the good beast will vomit a whole tableclothful of gold pieces. Send for all our relations, I will make them rich people." "That is very good news," said the old tailor, "I need not longer trouble myself with my needle." So saying, he hastened forth, and invited all the relations himself. As soon as they were assembled, the miller requested them to clear a space, then spread out his cloth, and uttered the word "Bricklebrit"; but no gold coins followed, and it was very evident that the creature did not understand the art of producing them, for every ass has not the same capacity. The poor miller made a long face, saw that he had been betrayed, and begged pardon of the relatives, who returned as poor as they came. There was no remedy—the old man was obliged to resume his needle, and the young man took service with a miller.

The third brother had found refuge with a turner, and diligently applied himself to learn his business ; but his being a more artist-like occupation, he was obliged to stay with his master longer than his brothers did with theirs. The latter, however, had taken care to inform

him of the misfortune that had overtaken them, very justly ascribing it to the knavery of the host, who had exchanged their table and ass for others of no extraordinary value. The time now arrived for the turner to leave his master and commence his travels, and he had conducted himself so well that his master gave him a sack, saying, "There is a cudgel inside." "Thanks," said the apprentice, "I can hang up the sack, and it may be very useful to me; but of what possible service can the cudgel prove? it only makes the sack heavy." "I will tell you," replied the other; "if anyone has done you harm, only say, 'Cudgel, out of the sack!' and it will spring forth among the folks, and dance upon their backs to such good purpose, that for a week afterwards they will not be able to stir; and the cudgel will not leave off until you say, 'Cudgel, into your sack!'" Again the apprentice expressed his thanks, hung the sack on his back, and if anyone offended him, or sought to attack him on his journey, he said, "Cudgel, out of the sack," and it sprang out, and soon knocked the clothes to pieces on the back of the first one, then the other, never ceasing until he was almost bare; and this happened so speedily, that before one could look round to see what was the matter, the cudgel was ready for the attack. One evening the young turner reached the inn where his brothers had suffered from the dishonesty of the host; laying his knapsack on the table before him, he began to relate what he had seen remarkable in his travels. "Something extraordinary is often met with, and sometimes one meets with a 'Table, be covered,' or a gold ass, and such like; very good things, I will not deny, but nothing in comparison to the treasure I have earned, and which I carry about with me in my sack." The host upon this pricked up his ears. "What can it be?" said he to himself, "the sack must be filled with precious stones."

I must, and shall, have these into the bargain, for all good things are by threes." When it was time to go to rest, the guest stretched himself on a bench, making a pillow of his sack. The host, thinking the traveller sound asleep, went near, and softly and slowly drew the sack, thinking he might probably be able to withdraw it entirely, and substitute another for it. The turner, however, who had been expecting the attempt, just at the moment the landlord gave a hearty pull, exclaimed, "Cudgel, out of the sack!" It instantly obeyed, and performed its duty so thoroughly, that the man had scarcely a thread left upon him. He cried and begged for mercy; but the louder he cried, the more heartily the cudgel kept time on his back, until at last he fell down exhausted. Then said the turner, "If you do not restore the 'Table, be covered,' and the gold ass, you shall have some more." "Oh! no!" said the host, in a weak voice; "I will willingly return them, only put the confounded wizard into the sack again." "This time I will have mercy," said the traveller; "but beware of the next time! your dishonesty may cost you more dearly." Then bidding the cudgel return to the sack, he retired to rest.

The next morning the turner took his way to his father's, with the table and the donkey. The tailor was very happy to see his son, and inquired what he had learnt while he had been away. "Father," replied the son, "I am a turner." "A very good trade," returned he. "What have you brought back with you from your travels?" "A costly article, father, a cudgel in a sack." "What!" exclaimed the father, "you might obtain that from any tree." "Not such as this, dear father; if I say, 'Cudgel, out of the sack!' it springs out of the sack, and leads any who have attempted to injure me such a dance, that they are glad to entreat for mercy. Look, with this cudgel I have recovered the 'Table, be covered'

and the gold ass, of my brothers, of which the knavish landlord had deprived them." The turner then sent for his brothers, and invited all his relations, saying, "I will treat them to plenty to eat and drink, and then send them home, with their pockets filled with gold." The old tailor could hardly persuade himself ; however, he brought all their relations ; and the turner, having spread a cloth on the ground, and placed the ass upon it, said, "Now, dear brother, speak to it." The miller upon this said, "Bricklebrit," and a shower of gold money descended instantly, and continued until all present had as much as they could carry away (I think I hear my reader say, he would like to have been there, so should I). Then the table was to be brought into exercise. It was placed in the middle of the room, and the turner said, "Now, brother, deliver your orders." Scarcely had the carpenter said, "Table, be covered," than it was filled with all sorts of good things in abundance. A feast was held, such as the good old tailor had never seen before in his house, and all the friends and relations kept it up until late at night, they were so well content. The tailor now abandoned needle and thread, yard-measure and goose, and lived henceforward with his three sons, in peace and plenty.

But what became of the goat, who was the cause of the tailor's sons being sent away ? I will tell you. She felt so much ashamed at having her head shaved, that she ran to a fox-earth, and crept in. When the fox came home in the dark, he saw two great fiery eyes glaring upon him, and felt quite afraid, and ran back. A bear met him, and said, "Friend fox, what is the matter ? you looked disturbed." "Ah !" said reynard, "a grim monster, with glowing eyes, is in my hole, and looked fiercely at me." "We will soon drive him out," said the bear. So he accompanied him to the hole, and looked in ;

but before he had time to say a word, he, too, was seized with fear, and declined interfering with the grim monster, and took his leave. The bee met him on his way back, and observing that his hair was on an end from fright, she inquired into the cause, adding, "You seem to have lost all your cheerfulness, and to be out of spirits." "It is very well for you to talk," rejoined the bear; "but there is a frightful monster in reynard's hole, with glowing eyes, and we cannot drive him out." "I am sorry for you," said the bee, "I am but weak and small, and scarcely to be noticed by such exalted personages as yourselves; nevertheless, I believe I can help you." She then flew into the fox's hole, stung the goat upon her head and chin, where she had been shaven, and troubled her so, that she sprang out, bleating, "Meh ! meh !" as if she were mad; and no one to this day has discovered whither she has run.

XLIV

FITCHER'S BIRD

THERE was once a wizard who took the form of an old man, went round to the houses, and, under pretence of begging, took the opportunity of seizing the young maidens. Nobody had an idea how he managed it, or where he took them, because they never again appeared. He one day stood and begged before the door of a man who had three handsome daughters, and carried a satchel or bag on his back, as if to collect alms. He begged for a morsel of bread, and when the eldest came out, and was about to give him a piece of bread, he only touched her, and she was obliged to jump into his bag. He then hastened away, bearing her to his house in the midst of a dark wood, where everything, however, was most magnificent. Once there, she had everything she could wish for ; and he said, kindly, " You will be very happy here with me, because you have all your heart can wish for." This lasted for a couple of days, and then he said, " I have a journey to take, and must leave you alone for a short time ; here are the keys of the house, you can go everywhere and see everything, except one chamber, which this key opens, and that is forbidden to you, upon pain of death." Together with the keys he gave her an egg, saying, " Preserve it with the greatest care, and carry it always about with you, lest it should be lost, for that would bring great misfortune upon you." Taking the keys and the egg, she promised to look after everything ;

but when he was gone she could not resist the impulse of curiosity, and after having examined the house from top to bottom, she went to the forbidden chamber, and opened that door also. What can express the terror she felt at the sight that met her gaze ! a large tub stood in the middle of the chamber, filled with mutilated dead bodies. In her alarm the egg which she held in her hand fell into it, and although she quickly took it out, and wiped off the blood, it was of no use, it appeared again directly after ; washing and rubbing, likewise, were of no avail, the proof of her curiosity was not to be removed. In a short time the man returned home from his journey, and the first thing he did was to ask for his keys and the egg. With a trembling hand she gave them to him, and looking closely at both, soon he saw that they had been carried into the forbidden chamber. " Very well !" said he to the maiden, " you have, against my will, been into that chamber, you shall now enter it against your own." Saying this, he seized her by the hair, cut her to pieces, and then cast her into the tub with the others.

" I must now go and fetch the second," said the wizard to himself. Assuming again the figure of a poor man, he went and begged before the house. The second brought him a piece of bread, and, like the first sister, the touch of the old man was sufficient to make her his prey, and he bore her away. It happened to her exactly as it had to the first maiden, the keys and the egg were entrusted to her charge, her curiosity overcame her prudence, and on the man's return her life was the forfeit. He now went for the third, but she was prudent and sly, and when she received the keys and the egg, she first put the egg carefully away, and then went into the forbidden chamber. What a sight met her view ! both her dear sisters lay in the tub miserably murdered, and cut to pieces. But she collected herself, and looking out all the

pieces belonging to her sisters' bodies, placed them in their proper positions—heads, arms, and legs, all were there. The members began to move, united themselves ; finally, both maidens opened their eyes, and were again alive. How heartily they rejoiced, kissed, and embraced each other !

In due time the wizard returned, and immediately demanded the keys and the egg. and discovering no trace of blood upon the latter, he said, " You have stood the proof, and shall therefore be my bride, and whatever you require I will do." " Then," replied the maiden, " you must first of all carry a basket of gold to my father and mother ; you must yourself take it, and carry it on your back ; in the meantime, I will arrange for the wedding." Running to her sisters, whom she had hidden in a chamber, she said, " The moment for saving you and arranging your escape is come, the wicked wretch shall himself carry you home ; but pray, as soon as you arrive there, send me help." She then put both into a basket and covered them entirely up with gold, so that not a bit of them could be seen. She then called in the old wizard, and said, " Now carry the basket away, but I shall watch out of my little window how you go, and, therefore, take care that you do not loiter or stop by the way."

The basket was placed on the wizard's back, and he went away, but it was so heavy that the perspiration ran down his face, and he was very desirous of resting awhile ; but one of the sisters in the basket instantly cried out : " I am looking through my little window, and see you are idling ; will you go on ?" Thinking the voice proceeded from his bride, he got up and proceeded. A little while afterwards he wished to sit down and rest, but the voice again cried, " I am watching through my little window, and can see you resting ; will you go on ?" and

as often as he stood still, they called out, and he was compelled to proceed, until at last, gasping and out of breath, he delivered the basket containing the two maidens and the gold at the house of their parents.

In the meantime, the bride had ordered the wedding feast, and invited the friends of the wizard ; then taking a death's head, she put on it some ornaments and a crown of flowers, carried it to the top window of the house, and placed it as if it were looking out. Everything being ready, she dipped herself in a cask full of honey, then cutting open a feather-bed, she rolled herself well in the feathers, so that she resembled some wonderful kind of bird, more than anything else, and no one could have recognised her. Then she took her way to her own house, and on the road was met by some of the guests going to the wedding, who asked her :

“ Whence do you come ?—are you Fitcher's bird ?”

“ I am, and I go to seek my lord.”

“ Is the young bride ready her guests to greet ?”

“ Yes, all is prepared, and the house is meet,
So she looks from the window, abroad.”

Very near her own house, she encountered her bridegroom walking slowly back, glad to be released from his heavy burden : he did not in the least suspect who he was addressing, but asked, as the others had done :

“ Whence do you come ?—are you Fitcher's bird ?”

“ I am, and I go to meet my lord.”

“ Is my young bride ready her friends to greet ?”

“ She is, and she's dressed from her head to her feet ;
So she looks from the window, abroad.”

Upon this the bridegroom looked up, and seeing the dressed-up skull with its grinning teeth, he thought it was his bride, so he nodded to her very kindly ; but just when he and all his friends had arrived at the house and

were preparing to call down the bride, the brothers and relations of the three maidens arrived, who were sent for to save her from being married to the wizard. They shut all the doors, so that none could escape, then setting fire to the house, the wizard and all his party were consumed in the flames.

XLV

THE KNAPSACK, THE HAT, AND THE HORN

THERE once lived three brothers, who, sinking deeper and deeper into poverty, were at last in such necessity that they suffered greatly from hunger, and had not even a crust left ; so they said, " Things cannot go on so, it would be better to go into the world and try our fortune." Accordingly, they departed, and proceeded far, walking over much ground without meeting the fortune they were in search of. One day they entered a large wood, and saw in the midst of it a mountain, which, when they came nearer, they saw was of silver. " Now," said the eldest brother, " I have found the good fortune I wished for, and ask for nothing better : " taking from the mountain as much as he could carry, he turned his back on his companions and went home again. The two others, however, said, " We hope for something better from our good fortune than only silver." So they would not touch it, and proceeded further. After travelling two days, they came to a mountain composed of gold ; the second brother, now stood still, reflected, and was uncertain what to do. " What would be best ? " said he : " shall I take as much gold as would last me all my life, or shall I go on ? " He at last determined, filled his pockets with what they would hold, said farewell to his brother, and returned home. The third, however, said, " Silver and gold will not do for me, why should I turn my back on good fortune ? perhaps something better is in store for me." He accord-

ingly proceeded, and after three days came to a wood, still larger than the other, which appeared, in fact, to have no end ; and as there was nothing in it to eat and drink, he seemed likely to perish. He ascended a lofty tree, in order to discover, as he hoped, the termination of the wood, but could see nothing but the tops of trees ; therefore, he began to descend, but hunger now attacked him so painfully, that he said, " Oh ! if I could only for once satisfy my hunger ! " To his great astonishment, upon reaching the ground, he saw a table beneath the tree, abundantly covered with food, the steam from which saluted his senses most gratefully. " For once," said he, " my wish is fulfilled at the right time ; " and without making any inquiries as to the cook, or who had placed the food there, he approached the table, and ate with appetite until his hunger was satisfied. Having finished, he thought " it would be a pity to leave this nice fine tablecloth here, to spoil in the wood." So he folded it neatly together, and put it into his pocket. Continuing his journey, in the evening hunger again made itself felt, and willing to make the trial, he spread the cloth out, and said, " I wish you to be immediately covered with a good meal ; " and scarcely was the wish expressed than it was covered with dishes containing all sorts of good things. " I now begin to understand who the cook is," said he ; " I certainly prefer you to either the gold or the silver mountain," for he saw that the tablecloth he had brought from the wood was a " Tablecloth, be covered." Nevertheless, the tablecloth would not altogether satisfy him, but he determined, now he had always a dinner in his pocket, to travel over the world, and further seek his fortune. One evening, passing through a solitary wood, he encountered a charcoal-burner roasting some potatoes at his kiln for his supper. " Good-evening, you black bird," said the traveller, " how do you get on in

your loneliness?" "One day the same as another," returned the charcoal-burner, "and every evening potatoes; if you are inclined for some, you are welcome." "Much obliged," returned the other, "I will not lessen your meal, as probably you did not calculate upon a guest; but if you will take your chance with me, I shall be glad of your company." "Who is to supply you?" inquired the coal-burner; "for I see that you carry nothing with you, and there is nobody for miles around who could furnish you with anything." "In spite of all this we will have a supper, and a good one, too, as you shall confess." Then, spreading his cloth on the ground, he said, "Tablecloth, be covered;" and instantly it was covered with boiled and roast of all sorts, as hot as though it had just come from the kitchen. The charcoal-burner did not stay to be entreated, but attacked the good things in earnest, pushing large supplies into his capacious, black mouth. When supper was over, the coal-burner said, "Listen, your tablecloth would be exceedingly useful to me in the wood, having no one to cook for me. I will propose an exchange: In that corner hangs a soldier's knapsack; true, it is of old and mean appearance, but it possesses wonderful power. As I no longer require it, I will give it to you for the tablecloth." "I must first know what are its wonderful powers," returned the traveller. "I will soon tell you," was the reply: "every time you strike it with your hand, a serjeant and six men, perfectly accoutred and armed, appear, and whatever you command to be done, they do." "Well," said the traveller, "I am willing to do as you propose;" so he gave the charcoal-burner the tablecloth, took down the knapsack from the hook, hung it on his shoulder, and took his leave. When he had gone some little distance, he thought he would make a trial of the knapsack, and accordingly knocked upon it. The seven men instantly appeared,

and the serjeant said, "What does my lord and master require of me?" "March in quick time to the charcoal-burner, and demand back my tablecloth." They did as desired, and before long they brought the tablecloth, having taken it, without many words, from the man. He then told them they might withdraw, and continued his journey, hoping his good fortune would shine yet more brightly upon him. At sunset he came to another charcoal-burner, who was preparing his supper by the fire. "Will you eat with me?" said the sooty companion, "potatoes and salt, but no butter; but you are welcome to your share." "No," replied the other; "for once you shall be my guest." Spreading his tablecloth, it was soon covered with a bountiful supply, and they ate and drank together, and were very good friends, as well as merry. After they had finished, the charcoal-burner said, "Up there, on that shelf, lies an old hat; it has very singular qualities: if you put it on your head and turn it round, a firing of cannon instantly takes place, as severe as if from a dozen pieces of artillery. No one can oppose it, for it destroys everything that comes in its way. The hat is of no use to me, and I should be very glad to exchange it for your tablecloth." "That is worth thinking of," said the traveller. Taking the hat, he placed it on his head, and handed the tablecloth to the charcoal-burner; after which, he took his leave. However, before proceeding far, he knocked upon his knapsack. His soldiers appeared, and receiving their orders, shortly made their appearance again with the tablecloth. "One good thing comes after another," said he; "and I think my good fortune has something yet in store for me." He was not wrong, for after travelling some time, he came to another charcoal-burner, who invited him, as the two former had done, to share his simple fare. But the traveller provided something better for both, to the great

satisfaction of the former, who, desiring to possess a tablecloth of such unusual quality, offered him in exchange a horn which was hanging up in his hut. When this horn was blown, all the walls and fortifications of a city fell; and if the blasts were repeated, towns and villages were laid in ruins. The tablecloth was transferred to this man likewise, but only for a time, as the soldiers quickly restored it to its first owner. Thus he was possessed of knapsack, hat, and horn. "Now," said he, "at last I am a rich man, and it is time that I returned home, to see how my brothers have fared."

When he reached the village from which they had all started together, he found that his brothers had built a fine house, and were living in riot and profusion. He presented himself before them, but his dress being worn out and torn, his hat very shabby, and the knapsack at his back very old, they would not acknowledge him for their brother, but mocked him, and said, "You give yourself out for our brother, who despised silver and gold, and aspired to a higher fortune! He will certainly return to us in all the grandeur of a king, not like a beggar;" so they drove him away. This reception aroused his anger, and he knocked on the knapsack until 150 men stood in a row before him, whom he commanded to surround the house; two of the number were then ordered to take hazel-rods and chastise the two ill-natured brothers, until they confessed their mistake. In consequence of this order being obeyed, a fearful noise arose,—people ran to the spot to render assistance, but could do nothing against the soldiers; therefore information was sent to the king, who, being much displeased at the disturbance, sent a captain with his troop to disperse the rioters, and drive them out of the town: but the man's knapsack quickly supplied a greater force, and the captain and his troop were compelled to retreat in very bad plight. The king

expressed his wrath at the presumption of the stranger, and the next day sent a larger force against him, but with the same result, for the knapsack responded to the call for men, and in addition to this, the traveller turned his little hat twice round, and the cannonade was so sharp that the king's men were either killed, or obliged to take to flight. "Now," said he, "I shall not make peace, until the king bestows his daughter upon me in marriage, and allows me to govern the whole kingdom in his name." This resolution was conveyed to the king, who said to his daughter, "'Must' is a hard word, but nothing else is left me; I must do as he requires. If I wish for peace, and to keep the crown on my head, I must comply with his demand."

The marriage accordingly took place, but the princess was much disturbed that her husband was only a common man, who wore a very shabby hat, and always had an old knapsack hanging from his shoulder. She would have made any sacrifice to rid herself of him, and considered night and day how she could do it. "It is possible," at length thought she, "that his wonderful powers lie in that knapsack. I will try to discover." So she concealed her real feeling, caressed him, and said, "I wish you would lay aside that old knapsack, it disfigures you completely, and I am ashamed of your appearance." "Dear child," replied he, "this knapsack is my greatest treasure. As long as I have it, I fear no mortal power." He then described to her its wonderful qualities. Pretending to embrace him, she took it dexterously from his shoulder, and ran off with it before he was aware of her intention. As soon as she was alone, she knocked upon it, and commanded the soldiers who appeared, to seize her lord, and turn him directly out of the palace. They obeyed, and the treacherous wife sent others after him, to drive him entirely out of the country. He would have been a lost

man if he had not still possessed the hat ; but as soon as his hands were free again, he turned the hat twice round ; the cannon instantly began to fire, and the shots knocked down everything they hit, so that the princess was obliged to come herself and beg for mercy. She entreated so earnestly, and promised so fairly, that her husband allowed himself to be persuaded, and peace was restored. For some time she seemed kind, and pretended to have great affection for him, which threw him off his guard ; and he one day told her that, even if anyone got possession of the knapsack, no attempt against him could succeed as long as he had the hat. Having now learnt the important secret, she waited until he was asleep, and then carried off the hat, and ordered him to be immediately turned out of the palace into the street. The horn, however, was safe, so in his rage, he winded it loudly. Instantly all fell together, walls, fortifications, towns, and villages, and the king and his daughter were buried in the ruins. Had he only continued, everything would have been an undistinguishable heap of stones, not one remaining upon another. But there was now no one to oppose him ; therefore he became king of the entire kingdom.

XLVI

THE OLD GRANDFATHER AND THE GRANDCHILD

THERE was once a very old man, whose eyes were dim, ears deaf, and limbs almost incapable of carrying him. When he was at table, he could scarcely hold his spoon, his hand shook so much, which caused him to spill his soup on the table-cloth, and sometimes even he was not able to swallow what he had carried to his mouth. This disgusted his son and his wife, and they obliged him to sit in a corner behind the stove, giving him his food in an earthenware dish, and not always enough of it, which made him look wistfully towards the table, with tears in his eyes. One day his trembling hands not being able to support the dish, it fell to the ground, and was broken, which annoyed his daughter-in-law very much, and she expressed her displeasure at the poor old man. He, however, made no reply, only sighed deeply, and they bought for him a wooden dish, of the value of twopence, out of which he was obliged to eat. While doing this, the little grandson, a child of about four years old, began to drag about pieces of wood, and to collect them together. "What are you doing there, my child?" inquired his father. "I am going to make a little trough," answered the child, "that father and mother may eat out of when I am a man." The parents looked at each other for a moment, and then began to weep, at the same time replacing the old grandfather at the table; and from this time they showed all possible kindness to him, and were indulgent towards those infirmities which were the effect of age and weakness.

XLVII

THE TWO BROTHERS

THERE were once two brothers, one rich and the other poor; the rich one was a goldsmith by trade, and had a bad heart, the other was only a poor broom-maker, but good and honest. The poor man had two children, who were twins, and as much alike as one drop of water to another. The twin-brothers went backwards and forwards to the home of their rich uncle, and were very glad to get an occasional meal of what was left from table. It happened that one day, as the poor man was cutting twigs in the wood, he saw a bird that looked like gold, and more beautiful than any he had ever seen before. He picked up a stone, and was fortunate enough to hit it; but a golden feather only fell, and the bird flew away. The man took the feather to his brother, who, after examining it, said, "It is pure gold!" and gave him a good deal of money for it. The next day, the man having ascended a birch-tree, to hew off a couple of its branches, the very same bird flew out of it; and when the man looked about, he saw a nest, in which was one egg; he took this, and upon bringing it to his brother, the goldsmith again assured him it was gold, and gave him its value for it. "I should very much like to have the bird itself," said the goldsmith, "perhaps you may be able to obtain it for me." The poor man went, for the third time, to the spot, and saw the golden bird sitting upon a tree; taking up a stone, he aimed so exactly that he brought the bird down, and

carrying it to his brother, he received for it such a heap of money that he went away quite pleased, saying, "Now I need nobody's help!"

The goldsmith was clever and cunning, and well knew what sort of a bird he had bought. He called his wife, therefore, and said to her, "Wife, roast me this golden bird, and be sure that not a particle of it is lost; I have a mind to eat it entirely myself." Now, the bird was not of a common kind, but of a very rare species, and whoever ate the heart and liver, would be certain to find a piece of gold every morning under his pillow. The wife prepared the bird, put it on the spit, and laid it down to roast; and it happened that while it was at the fire, and the woman otherwise engaged, the poor broom-maker's children ran in, looked at the spit, and turned it round two or three times. At this moment two little morsels fell from the bird into the pan, and one of the boys said, "We will eat these little bits; I am very hungry, and no one will know it." So they ate the morsels, but had scarcely done so, when the aunt coming into the kitchen observed them, and asked what they had eaten? "Two little bits that fell from the bird," replied they. "That was the heart and liver," said the wife, alarmed; but in order that her husband might not miss them, and be angry, she quickly killed a small fowl, and substituted its heart and liver for that which the unlucky children had eaten. When it was ready, she carried it to the goldsmith, who ate it every morsel by himself. The next morning he eagerly stretched his hand under his pillow, trusting to bring forth the piece of gold, but after routing in all possible directions, he felt convinced that in some way he had missed the prize he expected.

The two children were not in the least aware what a piece of good fortune had accidentally fallen to their share, until the next morning when they awoke, then something

fell on the floor with a ringing sound, and they picked up two gold pieces, which they carried to their father, who wondered much, and said, "How can this have happened?" but when it occurred the next morning, and was thenceforward regularly repeated, he went to his brother, and related the singular story. The goldsmith could account for it perfectly, and perceived that the children had eaten the heart and liver of the golden bird; and in order to revenge himself, being envious and hard-hearted, he said to the father, "Your children are in league with the Evil One, have nothing to do with the money; and I would no longer keep them in the house, for your children are in his power and may even ruin your soul too." The father had a wholesome fear of the Evil One, and hard as it was to him to part with his children, he, nevertheless, took them both into the wood, where, with a sorrowful heart, he abandoned them to their fate.

The children ran about a long time, in hopes of finding their way home, but they only further bewildered themselves, and were overjoyed when at length they met a huntsman, who asked them whom they belonged to. "We are the children of a poor broom-maker," they replied; and they further related how he would no longer keep them at home, because they found a piece of gold every morning under their pillow. "Well," said the huntsman, "that is nothing very bad, if you continue upright, and it does not incline you to be idle;" and being a benevolent, good man, and having no children of his own, he took them to his house, saying, "I will be your father, and will bring you up." He taught them the calling of a forester and huntsman, and put away for them the piece of gold, which they found every morning, as it might be useful to them, at some future day.

When they were grown up, their foster-father took them one day with him into the wood, and said, "You

shall this day make your trial-shot, that I may be able to declare you free of the forest, and make you huntsmen." They accompanied him accordingly, and stood long on the watch, but no game appeared ; then the huntsman looking up saw a large flock of wild geese, flying in the form of a triangle, " Now," said he, " shoot one from each angle." This was instantly done by one of the brothers , and shortly after another flock appearing, in the form of the figure two, the other was directed to shoot a bird from each angle, which he did. " You are now free foresters," said the foster-father, " you are first-rate sportsmen, I can teach you nothing more." The brothers departed into the wood, consulted together, and when they returned home in the evening, and sat down to supper, they said to the old forester, " We shall not eat, or touch a morsel, until you have granted us a request." " What is it ?" inquired their foster-father. " We have learnt all we can here," said they, " and we now wish to go into the world, and make our own way ; let us, therefore, depart, we entreat you." " You speak like right brave huntsmen," said the old man, joyfully ; " you have only expressed my own wish in the matter ; depart when you like, and may a blessing accompany you !" After this, they supped very happily together, discoursed of their plans, and wore light-hearted and joyous in the prospect of their journey. When the day fixed for their departure came, the good old man presented each with a good rifle and a dog, and besides, allowed each of the young men to take what he desired from the store of gold. He then accompanied them a good portion of the way, and at parting, bestowed upon them a polished knife, saying, " If you should ever separate, thrust this knife into a tree at the point of separation, and then either, upon returning to the tree, can discover by the state of the knife, how it has fared with his absent brother ; if

the side towards which lay the road he took is rusty, he is dead ; but as long as he lives, it will remain bright." The brothers took leave of the old huntsman, and proceeding, came to so large a forest, that it could not be crossed in a day, so they passed the night there, eating what they happened to have in their wallet ; but they found that the second day's journey would not take them out of it, therefore they had no provision for the second evening, and said, " We must shoot something, or we shall be starved." Loading his gun, one of the brothers looked around, and seeing an old hare, he aimed ; but the hare said :

" Good huntsman, prithee let me live,
And leverets two, you shall receive."

Springing into the thicket, she brought out two young hares, but the little animals played so amusingly, and were so pretty, that the huntsmen could not prevail upon themselves to kill them. They kept them, therefore, and the little hares always followed at their heels. Shortly afterwards, seeing a fox creep by, they aimed at it. But the fox cried :

" Good huntsman, prithee let me live,
And I will two young foxes give."

And bringing two young foxes to the huntsmen, the latter were not inclined to kill them, and, therefore, gave them for companions to the hares, and they all followed together. A wolf was the next creature they saw, but when the brothers prepared to fire, the wolf exclaimed :

" Good huntsman, prithee let me live,
And you shall two young wolves receive."

The young wolves were added to the other animals and they all followed together, and were very good friends. A bear next appeared, but not being weary of the woods,

he exclaimed, when he saw aim taken by one of the brothers :

“ Good huntsman, prithee let me live,
And you shall two young bears receive.”

The bears joined the party, which was now eight altogether ; but the next creature they saw was of a more terrible description, for it was a lion. Nothing deterred, however, they prepared to fire, when the lion said, as the others had done :

“ Good huntsmen, prithee let me live,
“ And I will two young lions give.”

And as he likewise brought the cubs he offered, the brothers had quite a train of followers : two lions, two bears, two wolves, two foxes, two hares, and two dogs, who attended and served them. However, with all this, their hunger was not appeased, so they said to a fox, “ Master Reynard, you are cunning and clever enough, get us something to eat, I dare say you know how and where.” The foxes told their master that there was a village not far off, where they had often got fowls, and they were quite ready to show him the way. They all proceeded thither, the brothers bought what they wanted, and gave their followers plenty to eat, and then continued, on their way. The foxes knew all about the neighbourhood well, and where the poultry-yard^s were, and they were able to direct their masters everywhere.

The brothers travelled about for some time, but could find no employment or situation, where they could all remain together, so they said, “ It cannot be helped, we must separate.” They divided the animals between them, so that each had one lion, one fox, one bear, one wolf, and a hare. Then taking an affectionate farewell of each other, they promised to be true till death ; after

which, sticking the knife the foster-father had given them into a tree, one brother departed in the direction of the east, and the other, the west

The younger came with all his animals into a town hung throughout with black, and going to an inn, requested the host to give him some place where his animals might pass the night. The host let him have the use of a stable that had a hole in the wall ; so the hare crept through and fetched herself a cabbage, the fox got a hen, and when he had eaten that, went back for the cock ; but the wolf, the lion, and the bear, being too large, could not go out to forage for themselves. The host, however, took them to a field, where a cow was lying on the grass, and of her they made a good meal. Having taken care of all these, the huntsman now asked the host, why the whole city was hung with mourning. "Because our king's only daughter must die," replied he. "Is she, then, dangerously ill?" inquired the huntsman. "By no means, she is in good health ; nevertheless, she must die." "Why so?" said the huntsman. "Listen," said the host. "Beyond the town lies a high mountain, inhabited by a dragon, who every year requires a maiden to be delivered to him, or he lays the whole country waste. All the maidens have been given up, and not one is left, save the king's daughter ; but there is no mercy for her—her fate is certain, and to-morrow she is given to the dragon." "But," said the huntsman, "why is not the dragon killed?" "Indeed," replied the host "many knights have attempted it, but have always failed, and lost their lives ; and the king has promised not only his daughter's hand to him who shall succeed in slaying the monster, but that the crown shall be his after the king's death."

The huntsman said nothing further at that time, but the next morning he took all his animals, and with them

ascended the dragon's mountain, to a spot where stood a small chapel, on the altar of which were three full cups, with this inscription, "Whoever empties these cups will become the strongest man upon the earth, and able to wield the sword that is buried under the threshold." The huntsman, without drinking of the cups, went out and sought for the sword in the ground ; then endeavoured to remove it from the place, but found it impossible. He therefore returned, emptied the cups, and was then strong enough to take up the sword, and wield it with great dexterity. The hour now approached for the delivery of the maiden to the dragon , the king, the grand marshal, and the courtiers, accompanied her to the mountain. They saw from a distance the huntsman, standing there, and thought it was the dragon expecting his prey, and therefore hesitated to advance ; but reflecting that the whole town would be lost if they drew back, the cavalcade continued on their way. At a certain point, the king and the court turned back with great demonstrations of grief and distress. The king's grand marshal, however, was to stay and observe from a distance all that occurred. When the princess reached the summit of the mountain, there stood, not a dragon, but the young huntsman, who endeavoured to console her by saying he was resolved to save her : then conducting her into the chapel, he locked her in. Not long afterwards the seven-headed dragon came to the spot with a dreadful roaring, and when he saw the huntsman, he was much astonished, and said, "What are you doing here, on this mountain ?" "I have come to fight with you," replied the huntsman. "Indeed !" said the dragon ; "then you may prepare for death, for I shall assuredly add you to the number of presumptuous fools whom I have sacrificed to my vengeance." Saying this, he breathed forth flames of fire and stench from the horrid jaws of his seven heads, think-

ing that they would set fire to the dry grass around, and that the youth would be suffocated in the smoke and stench, or perish in the flames. But the animals came rushing up, and extinguished the fire by treading on it. The dragon seeing himself thus foiled, sprang upon the huntsman ; but he flourished his sword, and by a well-aimed blow, struck off three of his heads. The dragon's fury now increased : vomiting forth flames of fire and sulphurous fumes, he again tried to spring upon his antagonist ; but dexterously avoiding the attack, again the sword descended, and this time two heads rolled on the ground.

The monster, exhausted, sought yet to repeat the struggle, but the infallible sword descending upon his tail, he was now entirely disabled, though not killed ; and the huntsman calling his faithful followers, they soon tore him to pieces. The combat being happily concluded in favour of the brave huntsman, he unlocked the chapel door, where he found the princess lying on the ground, fear and apprehension having deprived her of sense and motion. He bore her into the air, and when she came to herself and was capable of looking around, he showed her where her enemy lay destroyed, and assured her she was now safe. Her joy may be imagined, and she expressed her gratitude in the warmest terms, adding, " You are now my honoured consort, for my father promised my hand to him who should destroy the monster." She also divided her coral necklace, as a reward, among the animals who had aided in subduing the dragon, and the lion had the golden clasp. The huntsman, moreover, received her handkerchief, on which her name was embroidered in golden letters : and he, going to the spot where the dragon lay, cut the seven tongues from the heads, wrapped them in the handkerchief, and preserved them carefully. When this was all done, being very much fatigued from

the exertion, and exhausted by the horrible stench, he said to the princess, "We are both exhausted and tired, and we will repose ourselves awhile." As she agreed to this, they lay down to rest, and the huntsman said to the lion, "Watch while we sleep, lest any should attack or surprise us." The lion took up his position close to them, in order to keep watch, but being also much exhausted by his share in the combat, he said to the bear, "Come here, good bear, and watch by me, I must sleep a little ; but if anything comes, wake me up." The bear did as the lion told him, but finding that he too would be glad of a little repose, he called to the wolf, and asked him to stand sentinel for a short time, "but," added he, "upon the slightest alarm, wake me instantly." The wolf, however, was no less inclined than the bear to sleep instead of watch, so he called the fox, and coaxed him to take his place, saying, "I shall be refreshed in a few minutes, and ready to watch again." But the fox, being a very active animal, had been foremost in attacking the dragon, was very tired, and after a short time entrusted the hare to watch for him, saying, "Come and lie here and watch, I really must sleep a little while ; but, if you hear or see anything, wake me instantly." The hare obeyed ; but the poor thing was tired likewise, and unable to resist sleep, and having no one whom he could depute to watch for him, they were soon all asleep together—princess, huntsman, lion, bear, wolf, fox, and hare, and they slept soundly. The grand marshal, who was to have watched the proceedings from a distance, observing that the dragon did not fly away with the maiden, took courage and ascended the mountain. There lay the dragon cut to pieces, and not far from the monster the princess, a huntsman, and several animals, all in sound sleep ; and being a wicked and dishonourable man, he drew his sword, cut off the huntsman's head, and then

taking the princess in his arms, carried her down towards the city. The motion aroused her, and she awoke in great alarm : upon which the marshal said to her, " You are in my power, and therefore you must confirm my words, when I say that it is I who have killed the dragon." " That I cannot do," said the princess, " for a huntsman and his animals performed the brave action." This enraged the marshal, and drawing his sword, he threatened to kill her, if she refused to obey him ; and, in short, she was obliged to promise. He then conducted the princess to the king, who could scarcely believe it was his own dear child he saw still living ; for he thought that she was before this destroyed by the monster. The marshal said to the king. " I have had a fearful conflict with the dragon, and set free the princess and the whole kingdom by his death, therefore I demand your daughter in marriage, as you promised." The king, turning to his daughter, asked her if the marshal's assertion was true, to which she replied, " Ah, yes ; I cannot contradict it ; but I claim your permission to defer the marriage for a year and a day," thinking that in that time she might hear something of the huntsman.

The animals, in the meantime, lay on the dragon's mountain, and slept near their lord ; a large bee came and settled on the hare's nose, but she only brushed it away with her paw, and then slept again. The bee came again, but the hare brushed it off as before ; then the bee came once more, but instead of only settling on her nose, it stung her there, which made her awake, and she instantly called the fox ; the fox then aroused the wolf, the wolf the bear, and the bear the lion. When the latter stood up, and saw that the damsel was gone, and his master dead, he began to roar terribly, and cried out, " Who has done this ?—bear, why did you not wake me ?" The bear turned to the wolf, " Wolf, why did you not

wake me ?” The wolf looked inquiringly at the fox, and said, “ Fox, why did you not wake me ?” The fox made the same inquiry of the poor hare, who could answer nothing, so the blame was considered to rest with her, and they were about to tear her to pieces, but she entreated them, saying, “ Pray, do not kill me and I will restore our master to life again. I know a mountain, on which grows a herb which, being taken into the mouth, cures every sort of disorder, and all wounds ; but the mountain is 200 miles from hence.” “ Then,” said the lion. “ you must go, and return hither in twenty-four hours with the root.” The hare departed like lightning, and in twenty-four hours she was back again, bringing the root. The lion then applied the huntsman’s head to his body, and when he placed the root in his mouth, they instantly became re-united, life returned, and his heart beat again. But upon his awaking, what was his dismay to find the princess gone ! he could only think she had taken advantage of his sleep, to get rid of him, and that she had returned to her father’s palace. Now, in his haste to try the virtues of the restorative root upon his master, the lion had not sufficiently heeded the position of the head—the consequence was, that when the cure was completed, the huntsman’s face was turned to his back ; and his thoughts being occupied with the king’s daughter, it was not until noon came, and he was about to eat, that he discovered the singular transformation. The huntsman could not in the least comprehend it, and asked his attendants what had happened to him in his sleep. The lion then related that, overcome by fatigue, they had all fallen asleep, and upon awaking, had found him dead, and his head cut off ; but the hare, by fetching the root of life, had restored him, although in their haste they had fixed his head the wrong way. But the remedy was at hand—the head was again struck off applied properly,

and the hare was the physician who brought him back to life by means of the root.

The huntsman, in a very melancholy mood, quitted the spot, and travelled about everywhere, and made his animals dance for the amusement of people. It happened, singularly enough, that after the space of a year he found himself in the very same city which he had visited the year before, at a time it was in deep distress on account of the dragon ; but now they seemed to have some especial cause of rejoicing, for the whole town was hung with scarlet. "What is about to happen ?" inquired he of the host : "last year, at this time, your city was hung with black, and now your gay trappings show something extraordinary is about to take place" "Last year," replied the host, "our king's daughter was about to be delivered up to a dragon, who would devour her, but the grand marshal encountered and killed it, and for this service he is to receive to-morrow the hand of the princess ; last year, therefore, our city was hung with black, on account of the deplorable fate which awaited the maiden, but now the case is different, and the rejoicing is general."

The next day, when the marriage was to take place the huntsman said to the host, "Do you think I am likely to eat of the bread furnished to the king's table to-day ?" "I am quite ready to wager a hundred gold pieces against the chance," was the reply. The huntsman accepted the wager, and produced a purse containing as much ; then calling the hare, he said, "Go, little fellow, and fetch me some of the bread that the king eats !" Now the hare did not particularly approve of the errand he was sent on ; but he had nobody he could depute, and was therefore obliged to stir himself and do as he was told. "Oh," thought he, "if I go through the streets, the butchers' dogs will all be after me," and so it proved. The dogs

instantly got scent of him, and pursued ; but he ran as any hare would under such unpleasant circumstances, and took refuge in a sentry-box, without the sentinel perceiving him. The dogs collected around, and tried to seize him, but the sentinel not seeing the joke, struck at them with the butt-end of his gun, and sent them howling in all directions. When the coast was clear, the hare flew towards the palace, and entering, discovered the king's daughter, under whose chair he took up his post, and sought to attract her attention by scratching her foot. "Go, go," said she, for she thought it was her little dog. Again the hare scratched, and again the princess exclaimed, "Go away, go," for she still thought it was her dog ; but the hare was not to be so repulsed ; and again he scratched, which made the princess look down, and she immediately recognized the hare by the coral necklace. Taking it instantly into her lap, she carried him into her room, and said, "What do you want, good little hare ?" "My master," replied the hare, "who killed the dragon, is here, and has sent me to beg a loaf, such as the king eats." With much joy, she instantly assented to the request, sent for the baker, and ordered him to bring a loaf, such as the king ate. "But," said the hare, "the baker must carry it for me, that the butchers' dogs may not take hold of me." The baker, therefore, carried the loaf to the door of the room in the inn, then the hare stood on his hind legs, took the loaf in his paws, and delivered it to his master. "See, mine host," said the huntsman, "the gold pieces are mine." The host was not a little astonished, but the former said, "Yes, I have the bread, and now I will have some of the king's roast meat." "I should like to see that, though," said the host ; however, he was not willing to lay another wager. "Come, little fox," said the huntsman, calling another of the animals, "go and fetch me some of the king's roast meat."

Reynard was crafty enough to choose his road to the palace, and by taking unfrequented lanes and corners, he avoided the dogs, and got into the palace, when he placed himself under the princess's chair, scratching her feet to attract her notice. She looked down, and recollecting the fox by the necklace, took him to her chamber. "Good fox," said she, "what do you want?" To which he replied, "My master, who killed the dragon, is here, and has sent me to beg for some roast meat, such as the king eats." "Certainly," replied she, and sent instantly for the cook, who was commanded to prepare such a dish as was usually placed on the king's table. The cook carried it for the fox to the door, when taking it from his hands, the fox first fanned it with his brush, to drive away the flies who were feasting on the good cheer, and then took it to his master. "Look, mine host," said the huntsman, "bread and meat are here; now I think I must have some vegetables, such as the king eats," and calling the wolf, he said to him, "Good wolf, go and fetch me some vegetables, such as are served up to the king." The wolf took the straight road to the palace, being afraid of none, and when he entered the room where the princess was, he pulled her robe, and made her look round. She remembered him likewise by the necklace, and said, "Good wolf, what do you want?" "Madam," replied he, "my master, who killed the dragon, is here, and I am sent to ask you for some vegetables, such as the king eats." The cook was sent for; and ordered to prepare several sorts of vegetables, and when ready, he carried the dishes to the door of the inn, where the wolf received them from him, and took them to his master. "Look again, good host," said the huntsman, "I have bread, meat, and vegetables; but I should also like some confectionery, such as the king eats. Good bear, you likewise have a taste for sweetmeats; go to the

palace and bring me some of the king's confectionery " The bear trotted towards the palace, and as he passed through the streets, everybody made way for him, until he came to the sentinel, who opposed his entrance to the palace with his musket. But bruin rose on his hind legs, and with his paws bestowed two such hearty cuffs upon him, that down the man fell, and the bear very composedly made his way to the king's daughter. Uttering a growl behind her, she turned, and recognizing the bear, told him to go into her room ; when there, she inquired what he wanted, to which he replied, " My master, who killed the dragon, is here, and I have come to ask you to send him some confectionery, such as the king likes." The confectioner came, and received orders to carry what was required to the door of the inn. There the bear relieved the messenger, and after helping himself to all the loose comfits, raised himself on his hind legs, took the dish, and presented it to his master. " Now, landlord, what do you think of this ?" was the huntsman's inquiry ; " I have bread, meat, vegetables, and confectionery, but I must have some of the king's wine." The lion was this time chosen to be messenger, and his master said to him, " Good lion, I know you like a cup of good wine yours. If, go and fetch me some, such as the king drinks." The lion took his way through the streets, and the people all fled before him ; the guards at the palace wished to stop his progress, but he roared only once, and they vanished speedily ; the lion, therefore, continued his way, and arriving at the princess's door, knocked at it with his tail. She came herself to see who it was, and her first feeling was that of alarm, when she saw the lion standing there ; but recognizing the clasp of her necklace, she bid him enter, and said, " Good lion, what do you want with me ?" " Princess," replied he, " my master, who killed the dragon, is here, and I am to ask you for some wine, such as the king

drinks." The butler was sent for, and received orders to deliver such wine as the king drinks to the lion ; but the lion said he should prefer going with the butler, to see that he received the right sort, and went with him into the cellar. Upon entering it, the butler wished to draw some of the common wine, drunk by the king's domestics, but the lion cried, "Stop ! I will taste it first," and drawing a good quart, swallowed it at one gulp. "That will not do," said he. The butler looked sharply at him, but went to another cask, and would have drawn from that, which was appropriated to the king's marshal, but the lion again cried, "Stop ! I will try it first," and drawing a larger quantity, drank it, saying, afterwards, "That will not do, although it is better." This made the butler angry, and he said, "What can such a stupid creature know about wine ?" But in return, the lion gave him a blow that felled him to the ground, and when he again arose, without more words he led the lion to a small cellar, apart from the rest, in which the wine kept solely for the king's drinking was carefully stored. The lion now suspected he was in the right place, but would not have the wine before tasting it, then, being satisfied, he ordered the butler to fill six bottles, with which they went upstairs ; but upon leaving the cellars, and going into the open air, the lion began to stagger, and it was evident the wine had rather affected his head, which made it necessary for the butler to carry the wine for him as far as the inn door, when taking the basket from him, he carried it safely to his master. "Now, my good host," said the huntsman, "you see I have bread, meat, vegetables, sweetmeats, and wine, from the king's table, therefore my animals and myself will sit down to dinner." Saying this, he began to eat, and supplied the hare, fox, wolf, bear, and lion ; so that they all were very merry together, the huntsman especially, for he saw that the princess

had by no means forgotten her love for him. When the repast was concluded, "Now, mine host, I have eaten and drunk like the king," said he; "it only remains for me to go to court and marry his daughter." "Indeed," said the host, "you have done wonders, but I believe that is beyond even your powers; the princess has already a bridegroom, and the marriage takes place to-day." The huntsman, however, drew forth the handkerchief that the princess had given him on the dragon's mountain, and wherein he had wrapped the seven dragon's tongues, saying, "This, that I hold in my hand, shall obtain the princess for me." The host looked at the handkerchief, and replied, "If I believe all that I have seen, which is difficult to do, I cannot credit what you now tell me, and am ready to wager house and ground against your success." The huntsman accepted the challenge, and deposited on the table a bag with a thousand gold pieces, against the landlord's wager.

The king, in the meantime, was at the royal banquet, and said to his daughter, "What have all those wild animals wanted with you? and why are they continually coming and going in my palace?" "Father," replied the princess, "I may not tell you; but send for the master of these animals, and you will do well." The king instantly despatched a servant to the inn, to invite the stranger, and the man arrived precisely at the moment the huntsman had concluded the wager with the landlord. "Landlord," said he, "the king has sent an attendant to invite me, but I shall not go yet;" then turning to the servant, he said, "My request to the king is, that he would send me some royal apparel, that I may be fit to appear before him; also a carriage and six horses, and servants to attend me." When the king received this answer, he opened his eyes at the request; but turning to his daughter, he said, "What shall I do?"

"Send for him as he wishes," was the answer, "you will do right." The king sent accordingly some magnificent apparel, a carriage and six horses, and a train of attendants; and when the huntsman saw them approach, he said to the landlord, "Now I am sent for in the style I require, I will go." So he dressed himself in the robes, entered the carriage, and taking the handkerchief with the dragon's tongues, drove to the palace. The king observing the train from a distance, said to his daughter, "How shall I receive him?" "Go to meet him," she replied, "and you will do right." In compliance with his daughter's directions, he advanced to meet him at the entrance of the palace, conducted him up the staircase, and all the animals followed. The king then assigned him a place at the banquet, near his daughter, and himself, and the grand marshal as bridegroom, sat on the other side; but he did not recognize the huntsman.

The seven heads of the dragon were brought on the table to be exhibited, and the king said to the stranger, "These seven heads were struck off by the grand marshal, who, by destroying the dragon, has won my daughter for his bride, and this day he receives the prize of his valour." The huntsman upon this stood up, opened the jaws, and asked, "Where are the seven tongues belonging to the dragon?" This confounded the marshal; he turned pale, and knew not what to reply. At last he said, "Dragons have no tongues." "Liars should have none!" rejoined the huntsman, sternly; "but the dragon's tongues are the trophy of the real victor;" and unrolling the handkerchief, he produced the seven tongues, one of which he placed in each jaw, and they suited exactly. Then displaying the handkerchief on which the princess's name was embroidered, he asked her to whom she had given it. "To him who slew the dragon," she replied. Calling his animals, he took from each the collar

composed of the princess's coral necklace, and from the lion the golden clasp, and exhibiting them, asked the king's daughter to whom they belonged ? " The necklace and clasp were mine," answered she ; " I divided it among the animals who assisted in overcoming the dragon." Then addressing himself to the king, the huntsman said, " When fatigued with the struggle with the dragon which I killed, and obliged to lie down to rest, the marshal came and cut off my head, then carrying away the princess, he pretended that he slew the dragon ; but that he asserts this falsely, the tongues, handkerchief, and the princess's necklace testify." He then further related how his animals had restored him to life, by means of a miraculous root, and that after travelling about for a year, he had just arrived in the city, and learned from the landlord of the inn the falsehood and treachery of the grand marshal. " Is this true, my daughter ?" said the king, addressing her. " It is, indeed !" rejoined she ; " and having been discovered, without assistance on my part I may now denounce the marshal's wickedness. Hitherto I have been compelled to be silent, by a promise extorted from me ; but all that the huntsman has advanced is true, and for this cause I entreated you to defer the marriage for a year and a day." In his indignation, the king instantly sent for twelve judges, who were required to pronounce sentence upon the marshal. Their decree was that he should be trampled to death by wild oxen, which was forthwith carried into effect, and the king bestowed his daughter's hand upon the huntsman, appointing him at the same time viceroy of the whole kingdom. The rejoicings at the marriage were great, and the viceroy sent for his father and foster-father to be present, loading them with gifts ; the landlord likewise was not forgotten, for sending for him, he said, " Now, mine host, I am married to the king's daughter, and your house and

ground are mine." "Indeed they are," said the landlord, "by right; but—" The viceroy here interrupted him saying, "We will not now stand upon that—you shall keep your house and ground, and the thousand gold pieces which I deposited likewise."

The young king and queen were now very merry, and lived happily together. He frequently went hunting, having great pleasure in the sport, and his faithful animals accompanied him. Not far from the palace was a wood, which was said to be enchanted, and that if anyone entered it, it would be most difficult for him to find the way out. The young king had the greatest desire to hunt in this wood, and allowed his father-in-law no peace until he gave his consent: then with a large train he took his way toward the forest, and as soon as he entered it, he saw a snow-white hind. "Stay here, until I return," said he hastily to his retinue; "I shall pursue that hind." Setting spurs to his horse, he followed at full speed, together with his animals. The attendants stopped as desired, but when evening came on, and he did not appear, they returned to the city, and said to the young queen, that their lord had pursued a snow-white hind in the enchanted forest, and had not come back to them. This troubled the queen greatly, and she knew not what to do. The prince, however, had ridden after his game, without being able to come up with it; and when he sometimes thought himself within shot, it suddenly appeared farther off, and at last vanished altogether. Observing that he had penetrated deep into the forest, he sounded his horn, to summon his followers, but no reply came, for they heard not. Night coming on, he perceived he had little chance of finding his way out before the light again appeared, so he made a good fire at the foot of a tree, with the intention of passing the night there. Soon he heard something that sounded like a sigh, over his head,

and looking up, he saw an old woman sitting in the tree, who kept continually shuddering, and saying, "I am so cold!" "Come down, and warm yourself then," said he, "if you are cold." "No, no," replied she; "I am afraid of your animals—they will bite me!" "Indeed, good mother," said the king, "they will not hurt you—come down." The old woman, however, was a witch, and she said, "I will throw you down a bunch of twigs from this tree, and if you strike them, they will do me no harm." Saying this, she threw down a small rod, and in order to satisfy the old woman, the king touched them on the back with it; but they instantly became motionless, for they were changed into stone. The witch being now secure from the animals, sprang down, touched the king also with a small rod, and changed him into stone. Then, with a peal of hideous laughter, she threw him and all the animals into a pit, where a large number of stones already lay.

The young king continuing absent, the anxiety and distress on his account increased, but none could advise what course to take. It chanced that the brother, who on separating had travelled towards the east, arrived at this time in the king's dominions. He had endeavoured to find some employment, but being unsuccessful, had travelled about with his animals, making them dance. It then occurred to him that he would go and inspect the knife, which had been stuck in a tree when they parted, and inform himself of the state of his brother. When he came to the spot, the knife was there, but his brother's side was half rusty and half bright. This alarmed him considerably, and he said to himself, "My brother must have fallen into some great misfortune; perhaps I may yet be able to help him, as the half of the knife remains bright." He therefore proceeded, accompanied by his animals, towards the west, and upon

entering the city gates, the sentinel advanced, and inquired if he should announce his arrival to the young queen, as her majesty was in the greatest distress on account of his absence during the last two days, and feared he had perished in the enchanted wood. The sentinel thought he was addressing none other than the young king, so strong was the resemblance, and the idea was confirmed by the wild animals who were running after him. The young man instantly knew he was mistaken for his brother, and thought, "It will be better to personate him ; probably I may more easily succeed in helping him." He therefore allowed the guard to accompany him to the palace, where he was received with the greatest joy. The young queen inquired eagerly why he had remained so long absent, for she, too, thought it was her own husband, but the brother replying that he had lost his way in the forest, she was satisfied.

He remained in the palace two or three days, inquiring in the meantime into all the circumstances of the enchanted wood, and at last he said, "I must again go and hunt there." The king, and also the young queen, endeavoured to dissuade him, but he persevered in his desire, and went thither with a large train. Upon arriving in the wood, everything happened to him as it had to his brother. He saw the snow-white hind, bade his attendants wait for him, and continued the chase alone, with the exception of his animals, until he lost sight of the game. Having plunged deep into the forest, he was unable to find his way back to the spot where he had left his attendants, made a fire, and determined to spend the night there, trusting to daylight to enable him to find his way out of the forest. When he had stretched himself by the fire, all his animals lying by him, he heard someone say, "Ugh, ugh, how cold I am !" Looking up, he saw the same witch in the tree who had turned

his brother into a stone. "If you are cold, come down and warm yourself," said he. "No, no," replied the old woman; "your animals will bite me, I am afraid of them." "They will do you no harm," replied the young man, "come down." "I will first throw you down a rod, and if you strike your animals with it, I shall not then feel afraid," said the old witch. This excited suspicion in the young man's mind, so he said, "I never beat my animals, come down, and come directly, or I will fetch you." "You can do me no harm," replied she, "even were you to try." But the young man boldly answered, "If you do not come down, I will shoot you, and fetch you down that way." "Shoot," replied she, "I am not afraid of your bullets." Upon this the young man took aim, but the witch being proof against leaden bullets, laughed and yelled in derision, saying, "You see you cannot hit me." But the young man, tearing three silver buttons from his coat, again loaded his rifle, and now her arts being rendered useless, she fell as he fired, uttering a horrible shriek. Placing his foot upon her, "Witch!" exclaimed he, "if you do not instantly confess where my brother is, I will seize, and cast you into this fire." In the greatest fear, the old creature begged for life, and said, "He lies in that pit, turned into stone, and all his animals likewise." Compelling her to accompany him to the pit, he threatened her, saying, "Restore my brother, and all the other human beings who lie in that pit, to life, or you shall perish in the fire." Taking a rod the witch touched the stones, and all were again living creatures, the young king and his animals; merchants who had been travelling through the woods; workmen, shepherds, people of every degree and kind, stood there, and expressed their gratitude for their release from the witch's spell. The twin-brothers especially rejoiced to see each other, and embraced very tenderly, then seizing the witch,

they bound her hand and foot, and consumed her in the fire ; and as the wicked enchantress ceased to live, the forest underwent a remarkable change, all the mysterious gloom vanished, and it was light and clear, and the royal palace was to be seen at not more than three miles distance.

The two brothers now returned to the city, relating their adventures by the way. When the youngest described his success with the dragon, and that he had been appointed viceroy, and treated as the king throughout the land, the other replied, " That I already know, for when I was mistaken for you, I was received with royal honours, the young queen treated me as her consort, and I was obliged to sit by her side at table, and share in her attentions." The younger brother waited for no further explanation, but was so transported by rage and jealousy that when he heard this, drawing his sword, he struck off his head ; but the deed was no sooner accomplished than deep repentance touched him. " My brother," cried he, " released me from the witch's spell, and in return I have slain him ! ' Alas ! alas ! " His sorrow was so great, that, in order to comfort him, his hare came and offered to fetch some of the root of life , the young king gladly assenting, the hare sprang away, and returning quickly, by its means the dead man was so rapidly restored to life, that he did not even observe the wound.

Continuing on their way, the younger brother said to the elder, " You look exactly like me, and have the same description of dress, let us enter the city by opposite gates, and come into the king's presence at the same moment." The elder agreed, and they separated, and the first consequence of their trick was, that a guard from the opposite gates of the city came at the same moment to the king, to announce that the young king with his animals had returned from hunting. " How is that possible ?" said

he, "for the gates are distant from each other?" However, the brothers were now in the court of the palace, which they entered by different sides, and shortly afterwards were in the old king's presence, who was considerably embarrassed, and said to his daughter, "Tell me which of these men is your husband; for both so exactly resemble each other, that I cannot tell." The young queen's embarrassment was not less than her father's, but suddenly recollecting the necklace that she had divided among the animals, she examined the lion, and found the gold clasp, and then declared, overjoyed, "That he whom this lion followed was her true husband." "Yes," said the young king, laughing, "I am the right man," and they all sat down to table together, and were very happy and cheerful.

XLVIII

BEARSKIN

THERE was once a young man who had entered the army ; he behaved himself bravely, and was always the first to face the bullets. All went well so long as the war lasted ; but when peace was made he received his discharge, and his captain told him to go about his business. His parents were dead, and he had no home of his own, so he asked his brothers to take him in till the war should begin again. But they had hard hearts, and answered that they could do nothing for him ; that he was fit for nothing, and must shift for himself as he best could. The poor fellow had nothing in the world but his gun, so he shouldered it, and went out to do as best he could.

He came into a great open region, where nothing was to be seen but a circle of trees. There he sat down in the shade, and thought gloomily of his fate. " I have no money ; I have never learned any trade but that of war, and now that peace is made, I am not fit for anything. I see that I shall have to die of hunger."

Just then he heard a noise, and, lifting his eyes, saw before him a stranger, dressed all in green, handsomely attired enough, but with a frightful cloven hoof.

" I know what you want," said the stranger ; " it's money. You shall have as much as you can carry ; but first I want to convince myself that you're not afraid, for I give nothing to cowards."

" Soldier and coward," said the other, " are two words

that do not go together. You may put me to the proof."

"Well, then," replied the stranger, "look behind you."

The soldier, turning round, saw a huge bear coming towards him and growling.

"Oh, oh," said he, "I'll tickle your nose for you and cure you of growling;" and he levelled his musket and shot the bear dead on the spot.

"I see," said the stranger, "that you don't want for courage; but there are other conditions you will have to fulfil."

"Nothing shall stop me," said the soldier, who saw that he had to do with an evil spirit, "so long as my soul is not imperilled."

"You shall judge for yourself," replied the man. "For seven years you are not to wash yourself, nor to comb your beard or hair, nor to cut your nails. I will give you a coat and a cloak which you must wear during the whole time. If you die in the interval you'll belong to me; if you live longer than seven years, you shall be free and rich all your life."

The soldier thought of the poverty to which he was reduced, and as he had so often defied death, he resolved to face it once more, and accepted the proposal. The man in green took off his own coat and gave it to the soldier, saying: "So long as you wear this coat, whenever you put your hand in your pocket, you will bring it out full of gold." Then, having stripped the bear of its skin, he added: "This will serve you for a cloak, and also for a bed, for you may not have any other; and by reason of this clothing, you will be called 'Bearskin.'" Hereupon the apparition vanished.

The soldier put on the coat, and, putting his hand in his pocket, found that his visitor had not deceived him. He at once put the bearskin on his back, and began to

roam through the world, making holiday, and denying himself none of those good things which make people fat and their purses lean. For the first year his appearance was passable enough, but in the second he already looked frightful. His hair almost completely hid his face, his beard was matted like a piece of felt, and his face so entirely covered with dirt, that if grass-seed had been sown in it, the seed would have come up. He made everyone flee away in terror ; but as he gave to all the poor, begging them in return to pray that he might not die within the seven years, and as he appeared an honest man, he always found a resting place.

In the fourth year he once came to an inn, where the host refused to receive him even in the stable, for fear he should frighten the horses. But Bearskin drew from his pocket a handful of ducats, and the host was mollified at sight of them, and gave him a room in the back-yard, on condition that he should not let himself be seen, so that the reputation of the establishment might not be destroyed.

One evening Bearskin was sitting in his room, wishing with all his heart that the seven years were over, when he heard someone weeping in the next chamber. Being a good-natured fellow, he opened the door, and saw an old man, who was sobbing, with his head resting on his hands. When he saw Bearskin come in, the man was frightened, and wanted to run away. But at last he grew calmer when he heard himself addressed by a human voice, and Bearskin succeeded at last, by means of friendly words, in inducing him to tell the cause of his sorrow. He had lost all his fortune, and was reduced, with his daughters, to such poverty that he could not pay the host, and was going to be sent to prison.

"If that's the only cause of your grief," quoth Bearskin, "I've money enough to get you out of the scrape."

And he summoned the host, paid him his demand, and gave the poor debtor a large sum into the bargain for his necessities.

The old man, thus relieved from his woes, did not know how sufficiently to testify his gratitude. "Come with me," said he. "My daughters are marvels of beauty; you shall choose one of them for your wife. She will not refuse when she hears what you have just done for me. In truth, you have rather a comical appearance, but a wife will soon alter that."

Bearskin agreed to accompany the old man. But when the eldest daughter caught sight of the horrible countenance, she was so frightened that she fled away with loud cries. The second stood her ground, and looked at her suitor from head to foot, but then she said: "How am I to accept a husband who has not a human face? I'd rather have the shaven bear I saw one day at the fair, dressed up like a man, with a hussar's pelisse and white gloves. At any rate, he was only ugly, and one night in time get used to that."

But the youngest daughter said: "Dear father, he must be a good man, because he helped us; you have promised him a wife, and you must keep your word."

Unfortunately, Bearskin's face was covered with hair and dirt, or it would have shown the flush of joy which overspread it and swelled his heart when he heard these words. He took a ring from his finger, broke it in two, and gave one half to his betrothed, begging her to keep it carefully, while he kept the other half. On the piece he gave her he wrote his own name, and inscribed the young girl's on the piece he kept for himself. Then he took leave of her, saying: "I must quit you for three years. If I come back, we will be married; but if I do not come, you will know that I am dead, and you will be free. Pray that my life may be spared."

The poor betrothed maiden was sorry, and the tears came into her eyes when she thought of her intended. Her sisters overwhelmed her with unkind jests. "Take care," said the eldest, "or, when you give him your hand, he'll scratch you with his paw."

"Have a care," said the second; "bears are fond of delicacies. If he takes a fancy to you, he will eat you up."

"You'll always have to do as he pleases," resumed the eldest, "or else he'll be growling."

"But," struck in the second, "the wedding ball will be pleasant; bears can dance gaily."

The poor girl let her sisters have their say without growing angry.

As for the man with the bearskin, he was always wandering through the world, doing good whenever he could, and giving generously to the poor, so that they might pray for him.

At last, when the last day of the seven years had come, he returned to the plain, and entered the circle of trees. A great wind sprang up, and the demon soon appeared with an angry face; he threw the soldier his old clothes, and asked to have his own green coat back again. "Wait a minute," said Bearskin; "you must first clean me." The evil spirit was obliged, very much against his wish, to bring some water, to wash Bearskin, comb his hair, and cut his nails. The man now resumed the appearance of a brave soldier, and looked much handsomer than he had ever seemed before.

Bearskin felt a great weight taken off his heart when the evil spirit departed without further tormenting him. He returned to the town, put on a magnificent velvet coat, and stepping into a carriage drawn by four white horses, drove to the house of his intended. No one recognized him. The father took him for an officer of high rank, and made him go into the room where his daughters were

seated. The two eldest made him sit down between them. They put before him a delicious repast, and declared they had never seen so handsome a cavalier. As to his betrothed, she sat opposite to him in her black dress, with her eyes cast down, and said not a word. At length the father asked him if he would marry one of his daughters. Then the two elder girls ran into their room to adorn themselves, for each thought she would be the one chosen.

The stranger, thus left alone with his betrothed, took from his pocket his half of the ring, and threw it into a glass of wine which he offered to her. When she had drunk, and saw this fragment at the bottom of the glass, her heart beat quickly. She seized the other half, which hung from her neck, applied it to the first, and the two pieces fitted exactly. Then he said to her : " I am your beloved bridegroom, whom you saw under a bear's skin ; now, by Heaven's mercy, I have recovered my human shape, and am purified from my stains."

Then he took her in his arms, and kissed her over and over again. At this moment the two sisters came back in grand costume ; but when they found that the handsome young man was for their sister, and that he was the bearskin man, they ran off, full of anger and spite ; the first went and drowned herself in a well, and the second hanged herself on a tree.

That evening there was a knock at the door ; and the bridegroom, going to open it, found the green-coated apparition with the cloven foot standing outside. And the green-coat said : " Well, you've escaped me ; but I've got two to-day instead of you."

XLIX

THE WOLF AND THE FOX

A WOLF had once taken a fox to live with him, and being the weaker of the two, the latter was obliged to do all that he required, which made the fox very heartily desire to be quit of the wolf. It happened one day that passing through a wood, the wolf said, "Red-fox, get me something to eat, or I shall eat you!" To which the other replied, "I know a farmer's, where there are a couple of nice young lambs; if you like, we will go and fetch one." This pleased the wolf, so they went; the fox stole one, brought it to the wolf, and then ran away, leaving his comrade to devour it. This done, the wolf was not content, but wishing for the other, went himself to fetch it; and being very awkward, the old sheep saw him, and began to cry and bleat so horribly, that the farmer's people came running to see what was the matter. Of course they found the wolf there, and beat him so unmercifully, that, howling and limping, he returned to the fox. "You had already shown me how, so I went to fetch the other lamb," said he, "but the farmer's people discovered me, and have nearly killed me." "Why are you such a glutton?" replied the fox.

The next day they went again into the fields. "Red-fox," said the wolf, "get me something quickly to eat, or I shall eat you!" "Well," replied the fox, "I know a farm, where the woman is baking pancakes this evening; let us go and fetch some." They went accordingly,

and the fox, slipping round the house, peeped and sniffed so long, that he found out at last where the dish stood, then quietly abstracting six pancakes, he carried them to the wolf. "Here is something for you to eat," said he, and then went away. The wolf had swallowed the six pancakes in a very short space of time, and said, "I should very much like some more;" but going to cater for himself, he pulled the dish down from the shelf, which broke into a thousand pieces, and the noise, in addition, brought out the farmer's wife, to discover what was the matter. Upon seeing the wolf, she raised such an alarm, that all the people came with sticks, or any weapon they could snatch; and the consequence was, that the wolf only escaped with his life, for he was beaten so severely that he could scarcely hobble to the wood where the fox was. "Pretty mischief you have led me into," said the wolf, when he saw him, "the peasants have caught, and nearly flayed me." "Why, then, are you such a glutton?" returned the fox.

Upon a third occasion, being out together, and the wolf only able with difficulty to limp about, he nevertheless said again, "Red-fox, get me something to eat, or I shall eat you!" "Well," said the fox, "I know a man who has been killing, and has all the meat salted down in a tub in his cellar; we will go and fetch it." "That will do," said the wolf, "but I must go with you, and you can help me to get off, if anything should happen." The fox then showed him all the by-ways, and at last they came to the cellar, where they found meat in abundance, which the wolf instantly greedily attacked, saying at the same time to himself, "Here, there is no occasion to hurry." The fox also showed no unnecessary reserve in the matter, only, that while eating, he looked sharply about him, and ran occasionally to the hole by which they had entered, in order to try if he was still small enough

to get out by the same way he had come in. "Friend fox," said the wolf, "pray tell me why you are so fidgety, and why you run about in such an odd manner?" "I am looking out, lest any one should come," replied the cunning creature; "come, are you not eating too much?" "I am not going away," said the wolf, "until the tub is empty; that would be foolish!" In the meantime, the farmer, who had heard the fox running about, came into the cellar to see what it was stirring, and upon the first sight of him, reynard with one leap was through the hole, and on his way to the wood; but when the wolf attempted to follow, he had so increased his size by his greediness, that he could not succeed, and stuck in the hole, which enabled the farmer to kill him with his cudgel. The fox, however, reached the wood in safety, and rejoiced not a little to be freed from the old glutton.

THE PINK

THERE was once a queen who, notwithstanding her great desire and love for children, had never had one. She was accustomed to go every morning into the garden to pray that a son or daughter might be granted her; and this had long continued, when one morning an angel came to her, who said, "Be content, a son will be given to you, who will possess the faculty of obtaining anything that he wishes for, and every wish, with respect to this world, will be fulfilled." The queen hastened to the king with the joyful intelligence, and when the time came, she had a son, which filled the king's heart with joy. The queen went every morning with her child into the park surrounding the palace, in order to wash him in a clear spring. Now it once happened, when the child was a little older, that he lay upon her lap, after his bath, and the queen fell asleep, and an old cook who knew that the child would have whatever he wished for, came and stole it away, then taking a hen, he killed it, and sprinkled the queen's apron and clothes with the blood. The child was carried to a secret place, where the cook had provided a nurse for it, and he then proceeded with the rest of his wicked scheme; for, hastening to the king, he accused the queen of allowing the child to be carried away by wild beasts. Upon seeing the blood on her dress, the king believed the accusation, and fell into such a rage, that he ordered a high tower to be instantly built, into

which the light of sun or moon could never shine, then putting the unfortunate queen therein, he ordered the entrance to be walled up, and that she should stay there for seven years, without meat or drink, determining, of course, that she should die. But two angels, in the form of white doves, came daily to the queen, bringing all that was necessary for her support; and being a woman of pious mind, she waited patiently for the termination of her captivity.

In the meantime the cook thought to himself, "The child can obtain all he wishes for, and I am here continually, this may bring some misfortune upon me." So he left the palace, and going to the boy, who was now old enough to speak, he said to him, "Wish for a beautiful palace, and everything that should belong to it." Scarcely were the words uttered, than everything he desired stood there; but after a while, the cook said to him, "It is not good for you to be so much alone, wish for a beautiful maiden for a companion." The king's son did as directed, and one immediately stood before him, more beautiful than any painter could represent, with whom he played and amused himself in the palace gardens, and whom he loved very heartily. The old cook now went out hunting like any nobleman, but he was not altogether easy in his mind, for he feared the little prince might some day wish himself with his father, which would bring him into great trouble; therefore, the wicked man went out, took the maiden aside, and said to her, "This very night, when the boy sleeps, plunge this knife in his breast, and then bring me his heart and lungs, as a proof I am obeyed." Seeing that she hesitated, he added, "I shall kill you instantly if you refuse," which obliged her to consent. The next day, upon seeing her, he found she had not obeyed his commands, "For," said she, "how could I deprive the innocent child of life? he has never injured any one."

"Well," returned the cook, "your life or his, to-morrow will decide which." When he had departed, the maiden ordered a deer to be slain, then taking the heart and lungs, she placed them on a plate, and when she saw the cook approaching the next day, she bade the boy get into bed, and cover himself closely with the clothes. When the wretch entered, his first inquiry was for the boy's heart and lungs, and the maiden presented him with the plate, but before he could speak, the boy threw back the clothes, and to his great astonishment, addressed him, saying, "You old sinner, why should you take my life? However, you shall not escape the punishment you deserve; therefore, listen to the sentence I am about to pronounce. You shall become a black spaniel, with a golden chain round your neck, and you shall feed upon glowing coals; so that the flames shall issue from your throat." As soon as the words were uttered, the old cook was changed into a black spaniel, with a gold chain round his neck, and upon the cook being ordered to bring up some glowing coals, he devoured them, and the flames rushed forth from his throat. After this, the king's son remained tranquilly in the palace for a short time, but at length the thought of his mother arose continually, and he longed to know if she were yet living; therefore, he said to the maiden, "I must return to my fatherland, and if you will go with me, I will protect you." "Ah," replied she, "it is so far from hence, and what should I do in a foreign land, where I am altogether unknown?" Seeing, therefore, that her inclination to go was not great, although they feared to separate from each other, he wished she should become a beautiful pink, which he could take with him.

There being now nothing to hinder his desire to learn for himself what had become of his mother, he commenced his journey, the spaniel being obliged to follow them, and shortly after he arrived in his native place. He went

instantly to the tower where his mother was confined, and the tower being lofty, he wished for a ladder to reach the top. This he mounted, and looking in, exclaimed, "Dearest mother, lady queen, are you living or dead?" to which she immediately answered, "I have just eaten, and have had sufficient," for she thought the doves were there. "I am your own son," returned the youth, "who was supposed to have been carried off by wild beasts, but I am living and well, and trust shortly to release you." He then descended the ladder, and proceeding to his father's palace, caused himself to be announced as a foreign huntsman, and requested to be taken into his service. The king replied, "He had no objection, if he were expert, and could procure a good supply of venison; indeed, if that were the case, he should be glad of his services, for he had never been able to preserve his game." The huntsman promised to procure as much venison as would be required for the king's table, and commanded all the huntsmen to assemble and to accompany him to the forest. This was done; he then gave directions to surround a considerable portion, leaving an opening on one side; within this circle he placed himself, and then uttered his wish, "That the deer should collect within its boundaries." The deer instantly collected, and more than two hundred head of deer entered, who were directly shot down by the huntsmen, and then carried to the king in the carts of sixty peasants; so that, according to his wish, his table could now be abundantly supplied with venison.

The king's satisfaction and pleasure was great, and he gave orders for a court banquet the next day, in order that all his courtiers might dine with him. When they were assembled, the king said to the huntsman, "You are so distinguished a sportsman, that you deserve to sit by me." But the youth replied, "May it please your

majesty, I am unworthy of so great an honour, for I am only a poor huntsman." But the king persisting, he was at length obliged to comply, and while seated by the king he thought on his poor mother, and wished that one of the king's favourite attendants would begin to speak of her, and inquire into her fate, whether she were yet living, or had perished in the tower. Scarcely was the wish formed, than the king's grand marshal began, saying, "Your gracious majesty, we are living here in pleasure and abundance, but how is it with your consort in the tower, is she living or has she perished miserably?" "Ask nothing about her," replied the king; "she allowed my darling son to be devoured by wild beasts; therefore my heart is steeled to her sufferings." Upon this, the huntsman arose and said, "Gracious king and father, she is still living, and I am her son; the wild beasts did not carry me away, but that wicked wretch, the old cook, who, while she slept, took me from her lap, and then sprinkled her dress with blood, in order to mislead you." Then calling the spaniel with the gold chain round his neck, he produced him to the king, saying, "This is the offender," and sending for hot coals, the creature devoured them before the face of all the court, until the flames issued from his throat. He afterwards asked the king if he would like to see the cook in his own form, and the king assenting, the spaniel was instantly changed into the cook, with his white apron, and knife at his side. The king could scarcely control his indignation at the sight, and ordered him to be imprisoned in the deepest dungeon. The huntsman, again addressing the king, inquired if he would like to see the maiden who had not only brought him up tenderly, but when ordered to deprive him of life, had refused to do so, although at the peril of her own. "Yes," said the king, "I would gladly see her." "Dear father," replied the son, "I must show her to you in the

form of a lovely flower," and putting his hand in his pocket, he brought out the pink, which he placed upon the table, and it was much admired by all. "Now," said the son, "I will show her to you in her true form," and wishing her again a maiden, she stood there so beautiful, that a painter would despair of being able to represent her loveliness.

The king now quickly despatched two maids of honour, and two attendants, to the tower, with directions to bring the queen instantly to the royal table. She was accordingly conducted thither, but she partook of nothing, and said, quietly, "I have been very mercifully preserved in the tower, but I shall now soon depart." It happened, accordingly, she lived for three days, and then died peacefully, and when she was buried, the doves which had carried her food followed the train, and afterwards took up their station on her grave. The old king caused the cook to be quartered, but repentance and sorrow preyed on his own mind, and he likewise died soon. His son married the beautiful maiden whom he had brought in his pocket in the shape of a flower, and they may be living happily yet, having heard nothing to the contrary.

LI

THE GOLDEN CHILDREN

A POOR man and his wife lived in a miserable hut, and supported themselves by catching fish, their living being so precarious, that they might truly be said to live from hand to mouth. It chanced, one day, that the man sat by a lake, and threw in his nets, and shortly afterwards drew out one fish, which was a golden one. While regarding it with great astonishment, the fish addressed the man saying, "Fisherman, throw me back again into the water, and I will make your cottage into a beautiful palace." "What would be the use of a palace to me," replied the fisherman, "if I have nothing to eat?" "Oh!" said the gold fish, "that should be provided for likewise; there should be a closet in the palace, and when you opened it, you would find dishes filled with everything you could desire, and as much as you wanted of it." "If that is the case," said the man, "I have no objection to do you the favour you ask." "Very well," replied the fish; "there is, however, one condition attached, namely, that you shall discover to no living mortal from whence your good fortune proceeds. If a single word is spoken, you lose all you have gained."

The man threw the fish into the water, and went towards his home; but when he reached the spot where his cottage had formerly stood, there was now in its place a fine palace. This made him open his eyes, for it is difficult to say if he believed all the fish had promised

him ; but he entered, and found his wife richly dressed, sitting in a well-furnished room. She was in a state of great satisfaction, and said, " Husband, how did all this happen ? how happy I am !" " Yes," replied the husband, " it pleases me too ; but I am dreadfully hungry, give me something to eat." " I have nothing to give you, I am sorry to say," rejoined the wife, " and in a new house one hardly knows where to look for anything." " Oh !" said the man, " I see a large closet yonder ; go and open it." The wife did as her husband directed, and there she found cake, meat, fruit, and wine in very pleasant array. " Oh !" said she joyfully, " what will you have ?" And taking out the good things, a table was quickly spread, at which they sat down, and ate and drank. When they had satisfied their hunger, " Husband," said the woman, " where does all this come from ?" " Ask nothing about it," returned the man ; " if I tell you, our good fortune is all over." " Well," said she, " if I am not to know, I am sure I do not wish." But in this she was not sincere, for she wished very much to know all about it, and her curiosity left her no rest night or day, and she so continually tormented her husband, that one day he told her impatiently, that everything came from a wonderful gold fish he had caught, and allowed to go again. As soon as the words were uttered, the beautiful palace with the magical closet vanished, and then they were again in their old hut.

The man was obliged to have recourse to his former occupation, and began again to fish. As it fortunately happened, he soon drew out the gold fish again. " Listen, my friend !" said the fish : " throw me back, and I will again give you the palace and the closet, filled with all you want ; only be firm, and say nothing of whence you have obtained it, or you will lose it all again." " I will take care," returned the fisherman, as he threw the fish back into the water. When he reached home, he found

everything as magnificent as on the former occasion, and his wife in great joy at the restoration of their good fortune. But her curiosity again got the better of her prudence, and after a couple of days she began to ask and tease, just as she had done before. The husband refrained for some time, but at length one day he lost his temper, and betrayed the secret. In a moment, the palace had vanished, and they found themselves in their old hut. "Now are you satisfied?" said the man; "we have lost all, and may starve if we like." "Oh!" said the woman, "I had much rather not be rich, if I am not to know from whom it comes. I have no peace as long as I do not know."

The man was obliged again to go and fish, and after a time he once more caught his old friend the gold fish. "Well," said the fish, "it is strange: I see I am to fall into your hands. Take me home, and cut me into six pieces; give two to your wife to eat, two to your horse, and bury two in the ground, and a blessing will come to you." The man carried the fish home, and did as he was told, and it happened that from the two pieces which he laid in the ground, two golden lilies grew, the horse had two golden foals, and the fisherman's wife two children, which were likewise of gold.

The children grew up, and were tall and handsome, and the lilies and the horses grew likewise. Then said the youths, "Father, we will, with your permission, mount our golden horses and travel in the world." Their father was much troubled at these words, and said, "My children, how shall I endure your absence?—for when you once leave me, I shall perhaps never hear tidings of you more." "Indeed!" replied they, "the two golden lilies will be with you, and by them you can judge how it is with us; when they are fresh, we are in good health—should they fade, some misfortune has overtaken us; but when they die, we are dead." The youths, therefore,

were not to be dissuaded, and taking leave of their parents, rode away. The first time they alighted, for the purpose of resting and refreshing themselves at an inn, a number of people collected there stared rudely at the strangers; and seeing they were somewhat different to themselves, began to laugh at and mock them, which so offended one of the brothers, that, confused and ashamed, and despite his brother's entreaties to remain, he mounted his horse and rode home to his father. The other continued his journey, and arrived at a large forest. Before entering it, people told him that it would not be prudent to travel through it, for that the forest was the haunt of robbers, who would be sure to attack him; and if they should discover that he and his horse were made of the precious metal, there could be little doubt that they would kill him. This did not deter our adventurous youth; he replied to all their reasoning, "I must travel through the forest." But in order to secure himself from possible mischance, he procured a bear's skin, with which he covered himself and horse, so that nothing of the gold could be seen, and rode boldly into the forest. After riding a short space, he heard voices in the underwood, and as he approached a spot where the forest was thicker, he heard a man exclaim, "Here comes someone;" to which another replied, "Leave him, he is a fellow in a bear's skin, as poor as a church mouse—we should get nothing by him!" The gold child therefore rode through the forest, and fortunately no harm befell him. After this, it happened that he came to a village, where he saw a maiden so beautiful that he believed there was nobody like her in the whole world, and for whom he felt so sudden and strong an affection, that he went straight to her and said, "I love you with all my heart—will you be my wife?" He pleased the maiden no less—therefore she consented, saying, "Yes, I will be your wife, and love you all the

days of my life !” The marriage accordingly took place, and they were in the midst of the rejoicings upon the occasion, when the bride’s father came home, and was much astonished to find his daughter keeping her wedding, and asked for the bridegroom. The gold child was brought to him ; but as he was still wrapped up in the bear’s skin, the father angrily exclaimed, “ Never shall a man in a bear’s skin have my daughter ;” and he endeavoured to kill him. The bride, however, entreated her father, saying, “ He is already my husband, and I have the greatest possible love for him.” Hearing this, he allowed his wrath to subside, and said nothing further. He could not, however, banish the thought from his mind ; so he arose very early in the morning, and went to observe his new son-in-law ; but instead of the ragged common beggar he expected to see, he was agreeably surprised to find a handsome golden man, with the air of a prince, and the bear’s skin was lying on the ground. He went away, therefore, saying to himself, “ It was a good thing that I suppressed my anger, or I might have done something I should have been sorry for.’

The gold child meantime was dreaming that he was chasing a magnificent stag, and in the morning the first thing he said to his bride when he awoke, was, “ I shall hunt to-day.” This alarmed her, and she entreated him to stay at home, saying, “ Some misfortune may happen to you ; and what would become of me ?” But he answered, “ I am quite determined to hunt to-day !” So he arose and went into the forest, and before long, a fine stag, exactly resembling the one he had seen in his dream, came in view, but sprang quickly away, upon the man levelling his gun at him. He followed, over ditches and through thickets, and felt no weariness the whole day while in pursuit, but towards evening the stag suddenly vanished from his sight. Looking round, the gold

child saw that he was standing before a very small house where a witch lived. He knocked, and the old crone came out, and inquired what he wanted at so late an hour in the thick forest. "Have you seen a large stag?" was the reply. "Yes," replied she, "I know it well;" and at this moment a little dog that accompanied the old woman began to bark at the hunter. "Be still, you ugly toad," said he, "or I will shoot you." "What!" cried the witch, in a great rage, "shoot my dog?" With these words, touching the gold child, she transformed him into a stone, and there he lay. His bride awaited him in vain, and said, "Something has happened, as I feared it would, from the dread I had of my husband going to hunt."

Now, the other brother, who had returned home, stood by the gold lilies, when suddenly one fell. "Ah," said he, "my brother has encountered something dreadful, I must find him; perhaps I may yet be able to save him." "Stay with me," entreated the father, when he heard his son's words; "if I lose you, I am quite bereft." But he replied, "I must go." So he mounted his golden horse, and rode until he came to the great wood wherein his brother lay, turned to a stone. The old witch came out of her house, and wished to ensnare him likewise; but he would not approach, and said, "I will shoot you if you do not restore my brother to me." Very unwillingly, she touched the stony form with her finger, and immediately consciousness returned. The two gold children rejoiced to see each other, and embraced tenderly, then rode together out of the forest, one to his bride, the other back to his father. Then said the latter, "I know at once that you had delivered your brother, for, on a sudden, the golden lily arose, and has continued to blossom." Nothing else occurred after this to interrupt their happiness, and they prospered to the end of their days.

LII

THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER

THERE was once a shoemaker who worked very hard and was very honest ; but still he could not earn enough to live upon, and at last all he had in the world was gone, except just leather enough to make one pair of shoes. Then he cut them all ready to make up the next day, meaning to get up early in the morning to work. His conscience was clear and his heart light amidst all his troubles ; so he went peaceably to bed, left all his cares to heaven, and fell asleep. In the morning, after he had said his prayers, he set himself down to his work, when, to his great wonder, there stood the shoes, all ready made, upon the table. The good man knew not what to say or think of this strange event. He looked at the workmanship ; there was not one false stitch in the whole job ; and all was so neat and true, that it was a complete masterpiece.

That same day a customer came in, and the shoes pleased him so well that he willingly paid a price higher than usual for them ; and the poor shoemaker with the money bought leather enough to make two pairs more. In the evening he cut out the work, and went to bed early that he might get up and begin betimes next day : but he was saved all the trouble, for when he got up in the morning the work was finished ready to his hand. Presently in came buyers, who paid him handsomely for his goods, so that he bought leather enough for four pairs

more. He cut out the work again overnight, and found it finished in the morning as before ; and so it went on for some time : what was got ready in the evening was always done by daybreak, and the good man soon became thriving and prosperous again

One evening about Christmas time, as he and his wife were sitting over the fire chatting together, he said to her, " I should like to sit up and watch to-night, that we may see who it is that comes and does my work for me." The wife liked the thought, so they left a light burning, and hid themselves in the corner of the room behind a curtain that was hung up there, and watched what should happen

As soon as it was midnight, there came two little naked dwarfs ; and they sat themselves upon the shoemaker's bench, took up all the work that was cut out, and began to ply with their little fingers, stitching and rapping and tapping away at such a rate, that the shoemaker was all amazement, and could not take his eyes off for a moment. And on they went till the job was quite finished, and the shoes stood ready for use upon the table. This was long before day-break, and then they bustled away as quick as lightning.

The next day, the wife said to the shoemaker, " These little wights have made us rich, and we ought to be thankful to them, and do them a good office in return. I am quite vexed to see them run about as they do ; they have nothing upon their backs to keep off the cold. I'll tell you what, I will make each of them a shirt, and a coat and waistcoat, and a pair of pantaloons into the bargain ; do you make each of them a little pair of shoes."

The thought pleased the good shoemaker very much ; and one evening, when all the things were ready, they laid them on the table instead of the work that they used to cut out, and then went and hid themselves to

watch what the little elves would do. About midnight they came in, and were going to sit down to their work as usual ; but when they saw the clothes lying for them, they laughed and were greatly delighted. Then they dressed themselves in the twinkling of an eye, and danced and capered and sprang about as merry as could be, till at last they danced out of the door over the green ; and the shoemaker saw them no more : but every thing went well with him from that time forward, as long as he lived.

LIII

THE WISE PEASANT GIRL

THERE was once a poor peasant so destitute that he did not possess a foot of land, only a small cottage and one unmarried daughter. "We should entreat the king to bestow upon us a bit of waste land," said the girl one day to her father. The advice was taken, and when the king heard of their distressed condition, he not only gave what they requested, but added to it a small plot of arable land, which the peasant and his daughter thought would, by their joint labour, produce a little corn, and thus add surprisingly to their hitherto scanty comforts. One day, while digging in their plot, they found, at a considerable depth, a mortar of pure gold; whereupon the peasant exclaimed, "Daughter, the king has been so gracious in bestowing upon us this ground, that we can do no less than carry him this mortar as a present." "Indeed, father," replied the girl, "we should do very wrong: we have the mortar without the pestle, and therefore must necessarily procure one, before presenting it to the king—let us rather say nothing about it." The man, however, would not listen to her advice, but taking the mortar, hastened to the palace, and asked to see the king; then stating that he had found the golden mortar while digging, he begged his majesty to accept it as a tribute of respect and gratitude. The king took the mortar, and asked if he had found nothing else. "No," answered the peasant. Upon which the king said, that

he must bring him the pestle likewise. It was in vain the man asserted he had not found it, he might as well have said it to the wind,—he was put into confinement, with a promise of being restored to liberty as soon as he produced the pestle. The warders brought him the usual daily allowance of bread and water furnished to prisoners, and always found the peasant repeating, “Oh, if I had but listened to my daughter! Oh, if I had but listened to my daughter!” Therefore they went to the king and acquainted him with the fact, adding that the prisoner would neither eat nor drink. The king then commanded that the man should be brought before him, and asked him his reason for crying so continually, “Oh, if I had listened to my daughter!” adding, “What, then, did your daughter say?” “She told me not to bring the mortar that we found to you, lest we should be called upon to produce the pestle,” replied the peasant. “What a wise daughter yours must be,” said the king; “let her come before me.” She was accordingly obliged to appear in the king’s presence, who said to her, that as she was so clever, he would give her a riddle to expound, and if she succeeded, he would marry her. The girl replied that she was ready to obey the king, so he immediately said, “Come to me neither clothed nor naked, neither riding nor driving, not by the road and not out of the road; and if you can do this, I will marry you.” The peasant went away, and undressing herself, enveloped herself afterwards in a large fishing-net, which fulfilled the first conditions; then hiring a donkey, she made fast the fishing-net to the creature’s tail, which thus dragged her along in a fashion which could not be said to be either riding or driving, and the donkey was forced to proceed in the ruts, so that the girl’s toes only touched the ground, and she was neither in the road, nor off the road. When she made her appearance thus, the king said she had

rightly understood the riddle, so he released her father from prison, took her for his royal consort, and intrusted to her the management of the royal revenue.

Some years passed after this, when one day the king being on the terrace, it happened that several peasants with their carts, stopped before the palace, after selling their wood ; some had oxen harnessed in the carts, and others horses. One peasant had three horses, one of which having just had a foal, the latter left its mother, and laid itself down between two oxen yoked to a cart. The peasants having returned to their carts, in order to make ready for leaving the town they began to scold and shout as usual, and the peasant who was the owner of the oxen asserted his right to retain possession of the foal, saying the oxen had had it ; while the other denied his right, upon the ground that it was his mare's, and therefore his. The dispute came before the king, and he decreed that where the foal was found lying, it should remain ; consequently it became the property of the man with the oxen, who had no claim to it. The other peasant went his way, weeping and lamenting the loss of his foal ; but he had heard that the queen was gracious and compassionate to poor people, because she herself was of peasant origin ; therefore he went to her, and entreated her to help him if possible to recover his foal. " I will assist you," replied she, " if you will promise not to betray me. To-morrow morning early, when the king is on parade, place yourself in the middle of the street through which he must pass, take a large fishing net and pretend to be fishing, cast it, and then drawing it in appear to empty it." She also told him what he should reply when he was questioned by the king. Accordingly, the next morning, the peasant was seen to stand fishing in a dry place. When the king was passing he observed him, and sent a page to inquire what the foolish man was about : he replied by saying,

"I am fishing;" and when the page further asked him now it was possible to fish where no water was, the peasant replied, "It is quite as easy to catch fish in a dry place, as for two oxen to have a foal." The page carried the explanation to the king, who instantly sent for the peasant, and told him he was very certain the speech and idea were not his own, and that he must directly confess from whom he had them. The peasant, however, strictly maintained that he had nothing to confess, that it was all his own; but, upon being laid upon some straw and well cudgelled, he at last owned that the queen had advised him to act as he had done. This enraged the king, and when he returned home, he upbraided his wife for her treachery towards him, adding, "You shall no longer be my consort, your reign is over. Return from whence you came, to your peasant's hut." He, however, permitted her to carry with her the dearest and best thing she could think of, - this was to be her parting favour. "Dear husband," replied she, "since it is your will, I must obey," and with these words she embraced and kissed him, as if about to take her leave. She then commanded a powerful potion to be brought as a parting cup, of which the king took a hearty draught, while she only touched her lips with the cup. The former soon fell into a sound sleep, and when the queen saw it had taken the desired effect, she called a servant, took a quantity of fine linen, in which she rolled the king, and then commanded him to be carried into the carriage which was to convey her to her cottage, and was then standing before the palace. Upon arriving at the old cottage, she caused him to be laid on the bed, and there he continued to sleep for a night and a day, at the end of which he awoke. When he looked around, he could not imagine where he was, and uttering several exclamations, he called his servant, but nobody appeared. At last his wife ap-

proached the bed, and said to him, " My gracious husband and king, you gave me permission to take with me on leaving the palace what I thought dearest and best ; now I have nothing dearer and better than you, therefore I have brought you here with me." Tears of feeling now dimmed the king's eyes, and he replied, " We have both been wrong ; let us be wiser for the future ; and now we will return together to the palace." This was accordingly done, they were again married, and they may even be living happily at the present time.

LIV

THE MILLER'S APPRENTICE AND THE CAT

AN old miller once lived in a mill ; he had neither wife nor child, and three journeymen assisted him in the work of the mill. As they had been many years in his service, he said to them, " I am old, and begin to be weary of business, and would fain repose myself for the rest of my days ; therefore depart, and he who brings me the best horse, to him will I give up the mill, upon condition that he takes care of me for the few years that remain to me." The third lad was a sort of under-groom, and considered rather weak by the others, therefore they did not desire he should obtain the mill, and he felt an equal reluctance that they should succeed to it. However, they all departed together, but when they got outside the village, the two others advised Hans to remain where he was, as he would never find a good horse. But Hans refused, and continued his journey with them until night came, when, finding a large cave, they entered, and laid themselves down there to sleep until the morning ; but the two only waited until Hans was fast asleep, then they arose, and hastened on their way, leaving their comrade behind them, thinking they had managed capitally, and that all now would go well with their errand. When the sun aroused Hans in the morning, he could remember nothing that had passed, but looked about him, and said, " Alas ! where am I ?" at the same time getting up, and crawling out of the cave. When he was in the wood, he said,

"Here am I, alone and forsaken, how shall I ever find the horse I want?" While repeating these words, a little striped cat approached him, and inquired, in a very friendly tone, what he wanted. "Oh!" said he, "you cannot be of any service to me." "Indeed," said the cat, "I know very well what you want, you are wishing for a handsome horse—come with me, and serve me faithfully for seven years, and I will present you with a handsomer one than you ever yet saw." "What a surprising cat!" thought Hans; "I may as well try if all she says is true." So he went with her to an enchanted castle, where he saw abundance of other cats, who were all her servants, they sprang about the house, and up and down stairs, and were merry and good-humoured. In the evening, when they sat down to table, two cats were obliged to furnish the music, one played the double-bass, and the other blew the trumpet, and puffed out her cheeks in a surprising manner. When supper was over the table was carried away, and the cat, addressing Hans, said, "Come, Hans—come and dance with me." "No!" was the reply, "I will not dance with a puss; I have never yet done such a thing." "Then take him to bed," said she to the cats. So they lighted him to his chamber, and one took off his shoes, another drew off his socks, and afterwards one blew the light out. The next morning they came again, helped him to rise, put on his stockings, fetched his shoes, and one washed him, while another dried his face with her tail. "Very nicely done!" said Hans. However, he was obliged to wait upon the cats likewise, and to chop wood for them every day. For this purpose he received an axe and a saw of silver, and the chopper was copper, and thus his days passed, he chopped the wood, had plenty of good things to eat and drink but saw nobody, except the striped cat and her attendants. One day, she said to him, "Go and mow the meadow,

and make the grass into hay," giving him, at the same time, a silver scythe, and a golden whetstone, with an injunction to return them safely. Hans went into the meadow, and did as he was ordered, and when the work was completed he brought scythe, whetstone, and hay safely home, asking the cat if she would not now bestow upon him his wages. "No," said she, "you have all sorts of things to do first for me. See, there is a heap of building-wood, tools, and nails, and all that is necessary, of silver; go and build me a small house." When this was done, he told the cat that he had obeyed her directions, but that he did not possess the horse she promised, although the seven years had passed like so many months. "Well," replied the cat, "should you like to see the horse you are to have?" "Indeed I should," replied Hans. Upon this she opened the door of the house built by the young miller, and there stood twelve horses, so beautiful that their coats were like looking-glass, and it made his heart bound only to look at them. The cat bade him give them corn and water, and afterward return to the mill, adding, "I shall not give you your horse now, but in three days I shall visit you, and bring it with me." Hans then prepared to depart, and she showed him the road to the mill; but during his years of service the cat had not once given him a new coat, and he had been obliged to keep to his old ragged frock that he had worn when he left the mill, which in seven years had become much too short for him. When he reached home, there were the two journeymen already there, each had brought a horse, but one was blind and the other lame. "Well, Hans," said they, "where is your horse?" "It is coming in three days," said he. This made them laugh, and they said, "Yes, indeed, where will you get a horse from? a fine steed it will prove, whenever it presents itself."

Hans then went into the room where the miller was, but the latter was so much offended at his ragged torn frock, that he said Hans should not sit down to table with them, for he should be quite ashamed of him, if anybody came in. They therefore gave him something to eat out of doors, and when they went to bed at night, the two journeymen refused to let him take possession of his old quarters, and he was compelled to pass the night in the poultry-house, upon a little straw. On the morning of the third day, a fine carriage with six horses drove up, and a servant led a seventh, with a coat like a mirror, and this was for the miller's man. A most beautiful princess alighted from the carriage, and entered the mill, and this princess was none other than the little striped cat that Hans had served for seven years. She inquired of the old miller where his apprentice, the under-groom, was ? to which the old man replied, " We cannot let him come into the mill, he is so tattered and torn, but he is in the poultry-house." The princess commanded him to be instantly sent for, and when he appeared he certainly was a very lamentable figure in his rags. But the lady's servants unpacked some splendid garments, washed and dressed him, and when all was done, no one would have recognized him, for he looked like a king. The princess now desired to see the horses the other journeymen had brought back with them, and lo ! one was blind, and the other lame ! Her servant was then commanded to lead forward the one she had brought for Hans, and when the miller beheld it, he declared such a magnificent animal had never yet appeared before his eyes, and that Hans was consequently entitled to the mill. But the princess interrupted him by saying, " That there was the horse for him, and he might keep the mill likewise, for another destiny awaited Hans." Then taking him by the hand, they entered the coach, and drove away together. They

THE MILLER'S APPRENTICE AND THE CAT 319

proceeded first to the small house Hans had built of silver ; but it had expanded into a magnificent castle, everything within which was of silver or gold. So there they were married, and Hans had riches in abundance for the rest of his days. Let nobody after this say, that although a man may be silly he may not be honest and upright.

THE CLEVER LITTLE TAILOR

THERE was once a princess so surpassingly haughty, that she could not believe her equal existed upon earth. If a suitor presented himself, she gave him something to guess, and if he failed, he was straightway dismissed with scorn and insult. She caused it to be proclaimed, that whoever could guess her riddle should marry her, and she made no conditions as to the rank of the candidates. It chanced that three tailors, who had just arrived in the city, found themselves engaged in this same enterprise : the two eldest thought, that as they had found it so easy to stitch, and had succeeded in such matters, they were not likely to fail here, but that the prize was already theirs : the third, however, was a little useless Flibbertigibbet sort of fellow, who knew nothing about his trade, yet expected to succeed in the present case, because he knew no reason why he should not. The two others, however, strongly advised him to remain at home, assuring him that his stock of wit was too small to supply any extra demand upon it ; the little tailor, however, was not to be persuaded, he was inclined to venture, and knew what he was about ; therefore he held up his head, and seemed to feel his own importance. The three tailors announced themselves to the princess, and required to hear her riddle, asserting they were the very people to guess it, their understanding being so fine and delicate, that you might almost thread a needle with it. " Well,"

said the princess, "I have hair of two kinds on my head, of what colours is it?" "If that is all," said the first, "that is soon answered; it must be black and white, like the cloth they call pepper and salt." "A wrong guess," was the princess's reply; "let the second answer." "Well," said the second, "if it is not black and white, it must be brown and red, like my father's dressing-gown." "Wrong again," said the princess; "let the third answer, for I see he is already sure he has it." The little tailor approached, and said, "The princess has a silver and golden hair in her head, and those are the two colours." When the princess heard these words, she turned pale, and nearly fell from her seat from terror, for the little tailor had guessed truly, and she thought no one in the whole world could do so. When her self-possession returned, she said, "You have not yet won your prize; something remains to be done. In the stable below, lies a bear; you must pass the night with him; when I rise in the morning, if I find you still alive, you shall marry me." She thought this was a certain way of getting rid of the tailor, for no man had yet escaped alive, who had fallen in the way of the bear's paws. The tailor, however, nothing daunted, assented to the proposal, saying cheerfully, "Boldly attacked, is half won."

When evening came, the little tailor was introduced to the bear, which immediately prepared to spring upon his visitor. "Softly, softly!" said the lad—"I must quiet you at once, I see;" so he very deliberately, and without the least appearance of apprehension, took some walnuts out of his pocket, broke them, and ate the kernels. The bear saw this, and thought he should like some nuts too; so the tailor felt again in his pocket, and gave him a handful, not of walnuts, but of pebbles. The bear put them into his mouth, but could make nothing of them, let him crunch them as he would. "What a simpleton

I must be !” thought he to himself, “not to be able to crack a nut. Friend !” said he, aloud to the tailor, “crack me a nut.” “Now you see what an ignoramus you are,” replied the tailor, “with so large a mouth, to be unable to crack a nut !” Taking the stone from the bear, he appeared to crack it instantly ; but he had slyly substituted for it one of his own walnuts, and put the pebble in his pocket. “I must try the thing once more,” said the bear ; “when I look at you, I cannot imagine the reason I fail. I must be able to do it.” The tailor gave him another pebble, and the bear laboured with all his strength to break it, but of course was unable to effect what he wished. After a time the tailor produced a violin from under his coat, and played an air upon it. When the bear heard the music, he could not help beginning immediately to dance ; and after dancing for some time, he felt so much pleasure in it, that he said to the lad, “Listen—is the fiddle hard to play ?” “As easy as possible,” was the reply ; “see, I place the fingers of my left hand on the strings, and draw the bow with the right, and the tune goes on merrily—fallalla, vivallalera.” “I should much like to be able to play,” said the bear, “and then I could dance as often as I had a wish. What do you think of it—will you give me some lessons ?” “With all my heart !” was the reply—“if you are clever ; but show me your paws—they are dreadfully long ; I must first cut your nails a little” A vice was sent for, the bear placed his paws therein, the screw was turned, and our tailor had secured the bear. “Now, wait until I come with the scissors,” said he, and with these words, laying himself upon a bundle of straw, he was soon asleep.

When the princess heard the bear growling so terribly in the evening, she thought he was certainly growling for joy at his victory over the tailor ; therefore she arose in

the morning, contented and cheerful, and went to peep into the stable ; but there stood the tailor alive, and as nimble as a fish in water. She could not now say another word against the marriage, as she had made the promise publicly ; therefore the king sent for a carriage, and she and the tailor were obliged to proceed together to church, in order to be married. When they had left the palace, the two other tailors, who had false hearts, and envied their comrade his good fortune, went into the stable, and released the bear, which, filled with rage, pursued the carriage. The princess heard him growling and snorting, and was in great alarm, crying out, " Ah ! the bear is behind us, and will carry you off." The little tailor, however, was prompt ; he placed himself on his head, and stretching one leg out of the window, exclaimed, " Can you see the vice ?—if you do not go away this instant, I will fasten you again in it." When the bear saw and heard this, he turned and ran away. The tailor then quietly drove to church, and the princess was married, and lived with him as happy as a lark. Whoever disbelieves this, is to pay a crown.

LVI

SNOW-WHITE AND ROSY-RED

A poor widow once lived in a small cottage, and before the cottage was a garden in which grew two rose-trees one of which bore white roses, and the other red. She had two children, who resembled the rose-trees—one was named Snow-white, and the other Rosy-red, and they were as pious and kind, industrious and indefatigable, as any two children ever were. Snow-white was quieter and more gentle than her sister, who preferred skipping over the fields, seeking flowers, and catching summer birds, while Snow-white remained at home with her mother, either assisting her in her work, or reading aloud to her when that was done. The two children had the greatest affection for each other; they were always seen hand-in-hand, and if Snow-white said to her sister, "We will never separate!" the other replied, "Not while we live!" the mother adding, "What one has, let her always share with the other." They often ran together in the woods, and collected ripe berries, but not a single animal would have done them an injury—on the contrary, they all felt the greatest regard for the young creatures. The hare came and ate parsley from their hands, the deer grazed by their side, the stag sprang past them unconcerned, the birds likewise stirred not from the branch, but sang in the most perfect security. No mischance befell them, if benighted in the wood, they laid themselves in the moss to repose, and slept until the morning, and their mother

was satisfied they were safe, and felt no fear on their account. Once, when they had passed the night in the wood, and the bright sunrise awoke them, they saw a beautiful child, in a snow-white dress, which shone like diamonds, sitting near the place where they had rested. She stood up when they opened their eyes, and looked kindly at them, but said not a word, and passed from their sight into the wood. When the children looked around, they saw that they had slept on the edge of a precipice, and would certainly have fallen over, if they had proceeded two steps further in the darkness. Their mother told them the beautiful child must have been the angel who watches over good children. Snow-white and Rosy-red kept their mother's cottage so clean, that it was a pleasure only to look in. In the summer, Rosy-red looked after the house, and placed by her mother's bed every morning, before she awoke, a nosegay, in which was a rose from each of the rose-trees. In the winter Snow-white lighted the fire, and put the kettle on, after scouring it, so that it resembled gold in brightness. In the evening, when the snowflakes fell, her mother bade her bolt the door, and then seating themselves by the hearth, the good widow read aloud to them from a large book, while the girls spun; near them lay a lamb, and behind was a white pigeon upon a perch, with its head tucked under its wing.

One evening, as they all sat thus comfortably together, a knock was heard at the door, as if somebody desired to enter. "Quick, Rosy-red," said her mother, "open the door; it must be some traveller seeking shelter." Rosy-red accordingly shot back the bolt, thinking to see a poor man; but it was no such thing, it was a bear, who thrust his great black head into the open door. "Rosy-red uttered a cry and sprang back, the lamb bleated, the dove fluttered her wings, and Snow-white hid herself

behind her mother's bed. The bear began to speak, and said, "Fear not, I will do you no harm; I am half-frozen, and only wish to warm myself a little at your fire." "Poor bear," returned the mother, "come and lie by the fire, only take care that your hair does not burn." Then calling Snow-white and Rosy-red, she bade them come out. "The bear," she said, "was kind, and would do them no harm." So they obeyed, and by degrees the lamb and the dove approached also, and had no fear. "Children," said the bear, "knock a little of the snow out of my coat." So they fetched the broom, and swept the bear's coat quite clean. After which, he stretched himself out before the fire, and amused himself with a little growl, just to prove he was happy and comfortable. Before long, they were all quite good friends, and the children began to sport with their unexpected guest, tugging at his thick fur, or putting their feet on his back, or rolling him over and over. Then they took a thin hazel-twig, which they exercised upon his thick fur, and when he growled, they laughed. The bear very indulgently allowed them to amuse themselves thus, only sometimes, when it proceeded a little too far, he called out, "Children, children, leave me an inch of life."

"Snow-white and Rosy-red,
Strike not your lover dead."

When night came, and all prepared to go to bed, the widow said to the bear, "You can stay here, and lie on the hearth if you like, you will then be sheltered from the cold, and the bad weather." The offer was accepted, but in the morning, as soon as day broke in the east, the two children let him out, and he trotted over the snow back into the wood. From this time the bear came every evening at the same hour, laid himself by the fire, and permitted the children to amuse themselves with him, so

that they became quite attached to their strange play fellow, and the door was never bolted of an evening, until he had made his appearance.

When spring came, and everything around began to look green and bright, the bear said one morning to Snow-white, "I must now leave you, and I shall not be able to return for the whole summer." "Where are you then, going, dear bear?" inquired Snow white. "I must go to the woods, to protect my treasure from the bad dwarfs: in the winter, when the earth is hard frozen, they are obliged to stay underground, and cannot work their way through; but now the sun has thawed and warmed the earth, they find their way to the surface, and are ever on the watch for what they can steal, and whatever touches their hands or reaches their caves, rarely, if ever, sees daylight again." Snow-white was very sorrowful when she took leave of the good-natured animal, and unbolted the door, that he might depart; but in passing out, he caught on a hook in the door-post, and a morsel of his fur being torn, Snow-white thought she saw something shine like gold through the rent; but he passed out so rapidly, that she did not feel sure what it was, and he was soon lost among the trees.

One day the mother sent her children into the wood to collect sticks: they found a large tree lying on the ground, which had been felled, and among the roots they saw something jumping and hopping, which they could not at all understand, it being occasionally hidden among the grass. When they drew nearer, they saw it was a dwarf, with an old withered countenance and a snow-white beard an ell long. The beard was fastened in a cleft in the trunk of the tree, and the little fellow was springing backwards and forwards, like a dog at the end of a cord, but could not succeed in getting free. He stared at the children with his fiery red eyes, and cried out, "What are you

standing there for ? Can you not come and see if you cannot help me ?" "What have you been doing, little man ?" asked Rosy-red. "Silly inquisitive goose," answered the dwarf, "I wanted to split the tree, that I might chop it into sticks for the kitchen ; thick logs would burn up the small portion of food we cook, for such as we, do not swallow great mountains of provisions, as you coarse greedy folk do. I had driven in the bill-hook, and should soon have done what I wanted, but the tool sprang unexpectedly out of the cleft, which closed again so quickly, that my beautiful white beard was caught, and here I am detained, for I cannot get away. You silly white-faced creatures ! you are laughing, are you ?" Notwithstanding the little man's ill-temper, the girls gave themselves all imaginable trouble, in order to release the dwarf, but in vain—the beard was immovable, it was held too fast. "I will run and fetch somebody else," said Rosy-red. "Idiot," replied the dwarf, "who would go and fetch more people ? here are already two too many ; can you not think of anything better ?" "Do not be impatient," said Snow-white, "I will try and consider." Clapping her hands, as if she had found a remedy, she took out her scissors, and instantly released the dwarf by cutting off the end of his beard. Directly the dwarf felt himself free, he seized a sack filled with gold, which was hidden among the roots of the tree, and raising it, growled out, "Awkward creatures ! to cut off a bit of my beautiful beard, of which I am so proud ! the cuckoos may pay you for what you have done." With these words, he swung the sack over his shoulder, and went away, without even casting a look upon the children.

Shortly after this the two sisters went to angle in the brook, thinking to catch some fish for dinner. As they approached the water, they saw something resembling a large cricket jumping towards the brook, as if it were

going in. They ran to see what it could be, and perceived the dwarf. "Where are you going?" asked Rosy-red; "you will not surely jump into the water." "I am not quite such a simpleton," screamed the dwarf; "do you not see that the confounded fish is pulling me in?" The little man had been sitting on the bank angling, when unfortunately the wind had entangled his beard in the line, and as a large fish directly afterwards took the bait, the little disagreeable fellow had not strength to pull it out, the fish therefore got the upper hand, and was drawing the dwarf after it. It is true he caught at every stalk and twig near him, but that did not help him much, he was obliged to follow all the movements of the fish, and was in continual danger of being drawn into the water. The girls came up just in time, they held him fast, and tried to disentangle his beard from the line, but in vain, they were too surely twisted together. Nothing remained but again to have recourse to the scissors, so they were taken out, and the part entangled snipped off. When the dwarf saw what they were doing, he cried out in a great rage. "Is this the way you spoil my beard? not content with shortening it before, you are now decreasing it the other way, and ruining it entirely. I shall never dare to show my face to my friends. I wish you had lost your way, before you came this road." Then fetching a sack of pearls lying in the rushes, and without another word, he hobbled away, and vanished behind a large stone. It happened that soon after this the poor widow despatched her children to the town in order to buy thread, needles, ribbon, and tape. The road thither lay over a heath, on which large masses of rock were scattered in all directions, and the children's attention was soon drawn to a large bird hovering in the air: they observed that after flying slowly in a circle for some time, and gradually approaching

nearer to the earth, it suddenly dashed down among a mass of rock ; immediately a pitiable cry pierced their ears, and running hastily to the spot, they saw with horror that the eagle had seized their old acquaintance the dwarf, and was preparing to bear him away. The compassionate children did not hesitate for a moment, but taking firm hold of the little man, they disputed so stoutly with the eagle for possession of his contemplated prey, that after much rough handling on both sides, the dwarf remained in the hands of his courageous little friends, and the eagle took to flight. When the little man had in a degree recovered from his fright, his little thin cracked voice was heard saying, "Could you not handle me more gently ? look at my little coat, you have torn and mangled it in a fine fashion, you awkward officious creatures !" He then took up a sack of precious stones, and slipped out of sight behind a fragment of a rock. The maidens were by this time quite accustomed to his thankless ungracious manner, so they thought nothing of it, but continued their way, executed their mother's commission, and then prepared to return to their happy home. On their road thither, they suddenly came again upon their friend the dwarf ; he had emptied out his sack of precious stones upon a clean spot, that he might number or admire them, for he did not expect that any one would be crossing the heath at so late an hour. The setting sun shone upon the bright stones, and their varying hues and brilliant rays induced the children to stop and admire them. "What are you looking at ?" said the dwarf rudely, at the same time reddening with anger ; "and why do you stand there, making grimaces ?" It is likely that he might have continued in the same complimentary strain, but suddenly a loud growl was heard close to them, and a large black bear joined the party. The dwarf sprang up in the greatest terror, but

was unable to reach his hiding-place, the bear was too near him ; so he exclaimed in the most evident anguish, " Dear Mr. Bear, pray pardon me, I will give you all my treasure, only look at the valuable stones lying there. Grant me my life ! What would you do with such a little insignificant fellow ? You would not feel me between your teeth ; but look at those two profane children, they would be tender morsels, and are as fat as quails—pray take them, good Mr. Bear, and let me go " The bear, however, was not to be moved with his words ; he gave the malicious creature one blow with his paw, and he lay lifeless on the ground

In the meantime the maidens had run away, and were making the best of their way towards their home, but they were suddenly stopped by a well-known voice, which cried, " Snow-white ! Rosy-red ! stop ! do not be afraid. I will go with you " The bear rapidly advanced towards them , but as he joined them, the bear-skin suddenly fell to the ground, and there stood before them a handsome man, entirely dressed in gold. " I am the son of a king," said he " but was enchanted by the wicked dwarf lying yonder, who stole my treasure, and forced me to run about the woods in the form of a great bear, until I should be set free by his death. He has therefore only met with a well-merited punishment."

After some time, Snow-white married the prince, and Rosy-red his brother ; and they divided between them the immense treasure that the dwarf had collected in his cave. The old mother passed many happy years with her children ; but when she left her cottage, she carried with her the two rose-trees, and they stood before her window, and continued to bear the most beautiful red and white roses every year

